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Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

Issue 42 - October 2009
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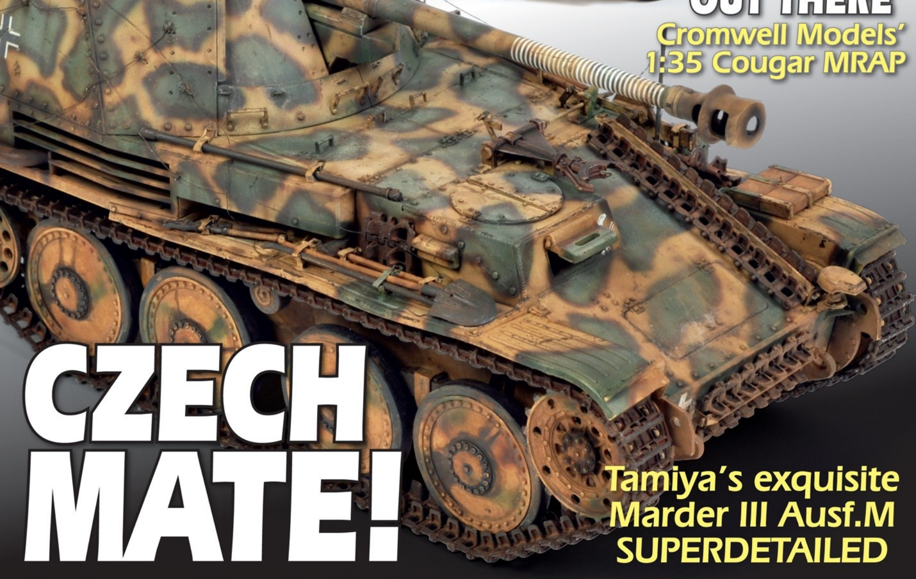
CITROËN ENCORE

Tamiya's brand new 1:35 scale Citroen 11CV

IT'S A MINEFIELD OUT THERE

Cromwell Models' 1:35 Cougar MRAP



CZECH MATE!

Tamiya's exquisite Marder III Ausf.M SUPERDETAILED

PREVIEWS: TAMIYA 1:48 SD.KFZ. 251/1 AUSF. D ■ DRAGON M55 QUAD .50 ■ ACCURATE ARMOUR STALLY ■ AND MORE...

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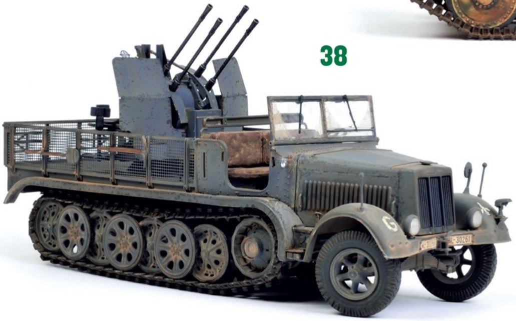

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NEW ACQUISITIONS FOR WHEATCROFT COLLECTION

The Wheatcroft Collection in the United Kingdom has purchased a number of new vehicles including a Sherman Firefly and a Schwimmwagen, both in mint condition, and a rare Staghound.

Other recent acquitions include a Citroen Kagesse that needs minor work and two WWII Mazda trikes.

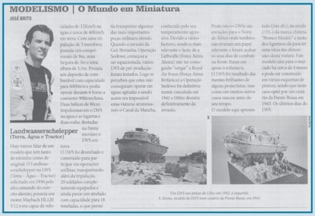
The Collection has also acquired the front armour plate (vertical driver section) from a late production Tiger I. This relic is painted in the original Dunkelgelb, and also Olivegrun, red primer and is finished in zimmerit. It is also fitted with a unique rain guard over the driver's visor, which staff hope will help identify the vehicle.

AIRFIX
1:76 WWI MALE TANK

AIRFIX
1:76 MATILDA 'HEDGEHOG'

ENCORE FOR VENERABLE 1:76 AIRFIX KITS

Airfix has re-released several of their venerable 1:76 scale military models. I fondly recall buying these models with my 1960s pocket money on a Saturday morning before building and painting them the same afternoon. The two most recent offerings are the WWI Male Tank and the Matilda. The Matilda has been updated as a Hedgehog spigot carrier as developed by the Australian Army in the Second World War.



MODELISMO | O Mundo em Miniatura

JOSÉ BRITO

Landwasserschelepper (Terra, Água e Tractor)

Hoje vamos falar de um modelo que tem tanto de estranho como de original. O Landwasserschelepper ou LWS (Terra – Água – Tractor) solicitado em 1936 pelo alto comando do exército alemão, possuía um motor Maybach HL120 V12 e era capaz de velocidades de 12Km/h na água e cerca de 40Km/h em terra. Com uma tripulação de 3 membros, possuía um comprimento de 9m, uma largura de 3m e uma altura de 3,5m. Possuía um depósito de combustível com capacidade para 600litros e podia operar durante 6 horas a consumir 90litros/hora. Duas hélices de 80cm impulsionavam o LWS na água e as lagartas e duas rodas dentadas na frente moviam o LWS em terra.

O LWS foi desenhado e construído para participar em operações anfíbias, transportando além da tripulação, 20 soldados completamente equipados e ainda puxar um atrelado com capacidade para 18 toneladas, o que permitia transportar algumas das mais importantes peças militares alemãs. Quando a invasão da Grã-Bretanha, Operação Seelowe, começou a ser equacionada, vários LWS de pré-produção foram testados. Logo se percebeu que estes não conseguiam operar em águas agitadas e sendo assim era impossível estas viaturas atravessarem o Canal da Mancha, conhecido pelo seu temperamento agressivo. Devido a vários factores, sendo o mais relevante o facto de a Luftwaffe (Força Aérea Alemã) não ter conseguido "vergar" a Royal Air Force (Força Aérea Britânica) a Operação Seelowe foi definitivamente cancelada em 1941 e Hitler desistiu definitivamente da invasão.

Posto isto os LWSs são enviados para o Norte de África onde também não tiveram um papel relevante e foram acabar os seus dias de combate na frente Russa em apoio à infantaria.

O LWS foi resultado das mentes brilhantes de alguns projectistas, mas como em muitos outros casos nasceu antes do seu tempo.

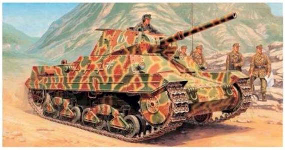
O modelo aqui apresentado (foto dir.), na escala 1/35, é da marca chinesa "Bronco Models" e junto dos figurinos dá para ter uma ideia das dimensões desta viatura. Este modelo saiu para o mercado há cerca de 4 meses e pode ser construído em vários esquemas de pintura, sendo que neste caso optei por um cenário da Frente Russa em 1943. Os últimos dias do LWS.

Um LWS nas praias da Líbia em 1942, à esquerda. À direita, modelo do LWS num cenário da Frente Russa, em 1943.

MMI REGULAR IN PORTUGESE PRESS

MMI contributor Jose Brito has branched out into the local Portugese media with a regular column in "Jornal de Barcelos". Jose has written 41 articles on model making for the newspaper to date, igniting interest amongst adults and juniors. This is the only local language print coverage that our hobby receives, as there are no Portugese model magazines.

Jose has also been offered a 30-minute weekly spot discussing modelling on Portugese radio.



ITALERI

FORTHCOMING RELEASES

Italeri is maintaining their busy release schedule with a new 1:35 scale Carro Armato P40 Italian Heavy Tank (Premium Edition) and SWS with Flak 43 in July, and an Autoblinda AB-40 and Staghound Mk.III due for release in September.

The P40, with its 75/34 cannon installed on a rotating turret and weighting 26 tons, was the most powerful tank used by the Italian Army during World War II. For an Italian tank of that time, it featured innovative characteristics such as angled front and side main body plates but these were still bolted together instead of welded. It had a reasonable speed of about 40 km/h (25 mph). The design of the P40 began in 1940 but its development was long and difficult. In 1943, the first definitive version was ready for production. With the subsequent armistice and Northern Italy German occupation, all P40s were operated by the German Army.

About three dozen P40s were buried along the Gothic line as small fortresses. The engines had been removed due to supply difficulties.

Three P40 divisions were operated by the German Army on the Yugoslavian front and others in Austria against the Soviet Army.

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PANZERWRECKS
ITALY 1
Lee Archer and William Auerbach

PANZERWRECKS 9 DUE OUT IN OCTOBER

What interior and exterior modifications did the Pz.Kpfw.III (Fl) have? Sd.Kfz.250/3 with 'Kurbelmast': Fact or fiction? Which German unit used the rare M41 90/53 801(i)? How do you drag a Tiger from a muddy riverbed? German troops used what as a 'fort' at Anzio? What unusual field mod did the Panzers of II./Pz.Rgt.2 have at Salerno? How were Panzers demolished by their crews? The answers to these and other questions are to be found in Panzerwrecks 9, with 136 rare and unpublished large format photographs sourced from around the world. A pre-publication offer will be made during September and the book should ship in October.

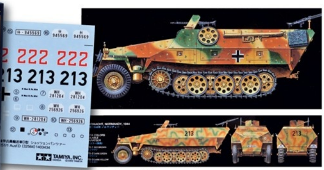
More details, including page samples & vehicle listings, may be found at www.panzerwrecks.com/pw9info.html. For the latest information, updates and corrections please visit Panzerwrecks' blog at: http://panzerwrecks.com/wordpress/

LONDON 2012 ANNOUNCES HORNBY AS LICENSEE

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) today announce that Hornby Plc, the models and collectibles group, has been awarded the licence to develop and market a range of products associated with the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

Hornby has been granted a licence by LOCOG to produce an extensive range of official London 2012 merchandise across its Corgi, Hornby, Scalextric and Airfix brands.

TAMIYA
1/48
Mtl.SPW.Sd.Kfz.251/1 Ausf.D



Markings are supplied for three vehicles.
The decal sheet also includes dials for the instrument panel.

MID-SCALE HANOMAG

The Editor peers into the box of Tamiya's brand new 1:48 scale late-version Sd.Kfz. 251 Ausf. D half-track and likes what he sees...

The newest addition to Tamiya's 1:48 scale Military Miniatures range is the Sd.Kfz. 251/1 Ausf. D.

The Sd.Kfz. 251 half-track was an important element of the Blitzkrieg concept of mechanised warfare. With its combination of steering front wheels and rear tracks, this vehicle was originally designed to carry troops and tow weapons across rugged terrain. Over the course of the war, the versatility of the 251's design was proven as it was used to mount various weapons and ordnance – including the long-barrelled 7.5cm Pak 40 anti-tank gun.

The Ausf. D was the later variant of this Hanomag half-track, introduced into production during 1943. It may be easily distinguished by its simpler lines and flat sides with integrated toolboxes.

This release is the basic troop-carrier version of the Sd.Kfz. 251.

Tamiya's 1:48 scale Sd.Kfz. 251/1 Ausf. D comprises 150 parts in Tamiya's familiar tan-coloured plastic, with a further 88 in medium grey.

The upper and lower bodies are supplied as one part each. There are no complex multi-part assemblies here. There is no metal chassis either. The integrated tool lockers are supplied for each side with the doors moulded shut. Small locks are represented as raised mouldings on the locker doors.

The two rear doors are moulded together as a single piece, with the outside hinges on their edges. This will make the job of displaying the doors open a bit tricky. The inside of the doors have four faint ejector pin marks that should be dealt with prior to assembly.

The driver's and co-driver's visors are also moulded shut.

The tracks are presented as link and length. In fact, the shortest section is two links, so I suppose technically speaking they are actually *length* and length tracks. Each track run is made up from only 13 parts. The track pads are moulded integrally with the tracks. The pads are not overly thick, suggesting tracks that have seen some wear. We don't get the customary poly caps for the front wheels with this kit. Each two-piece plastic front wheel is simply glued to the fixed front axle in the straight-ahead position, while the road wheels are attached to fixed suspension arms on the side of the lower hull.

Interior detail includes four bench seats, driver's and co-driver's seats, three separate control arms and non-slip pattern moulded to the floor. Stowage bins, a fire extinguisher and racks also help to fit out this busy area.

Tamiya supplies tools and two MG 42 machine guns for the exterior of the vehicle. Fine loose ammunition belts are provided for the guns – very impressive in this compact scale. A good selection of extra parts is also offered as optional stowage. These include spare road wheels and track lengths, jerry cans, grenade and ammunition cases (complete with moulded woodgrain), two buckets and a Panzerschreck anti-tank rocket launcher. Bear in mind that you will need to add some credible method of attaching these exterior accessories in order to avoid the amazing "levitating stowage syndrome" frequently seen on models.

Two figures are also included – a Commander and a Gunner. These are both wearing bulky winter uniforms. Moulding and detail is excellent, and the relaxed poses will offer flexibility for your chosen scene. Good luck painting the raindrop pattern camouflage in this scale though!

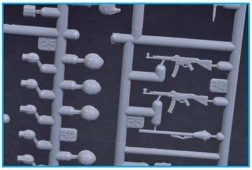
The grey sprue contains a stack of infantry equipment including covered and uncovered helmets, bread bags, water bottles, trenching tools, MG 34s, (another) MG 42, Kar 98K rifles, MP 40 machine pistols, MP 44 assault rifles, a Panzerfaust, ammo boxes and more. These will be very helpful to scatter inside your Hanomag.

Markings are provided for three vehicles. The first is in winter white wash, in service with an unknown unit on the Eastern Front in Winter 1943. The second option features green and brown streaky mottles over Dark Yellow, and was in service with 5 Panzer Division "Wiking" in Warsaw during August 1944. The final option is also finished in three-colour camouflage, this time based in Normandy during 1944.

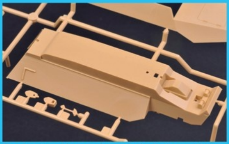
The small decal sheet includes some very nicely printed dials and details for the instrument panel.

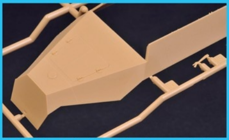
Tamiya's new 1/48 scale Sd.Kfz. 251/1 Ausf. D will undoubtedly be a fast easy build. It is also pretty well detailed straight from the box. The inclusion of two figures and a pile of optional stowage almost transforms the kit into an instant vignette.

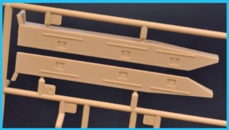
It is nice to have this late-version Sd.Kfz. 251 Ausf. D half-track in 1/48 scale. ■

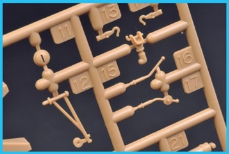

A wide selection of weapons, stores and infantry equipment is included in the kit.

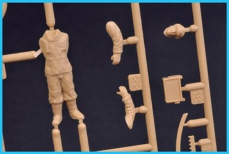
Thanks to Tamiya for the sample.
Available from good hobby shops worldwide.

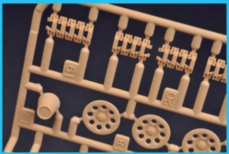

The chassis and lower body is a single plastic moulding – no die cast with this release.

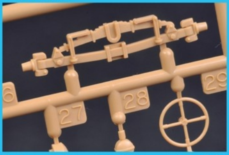

Detail is delicately done but most hatches are moulded shut.

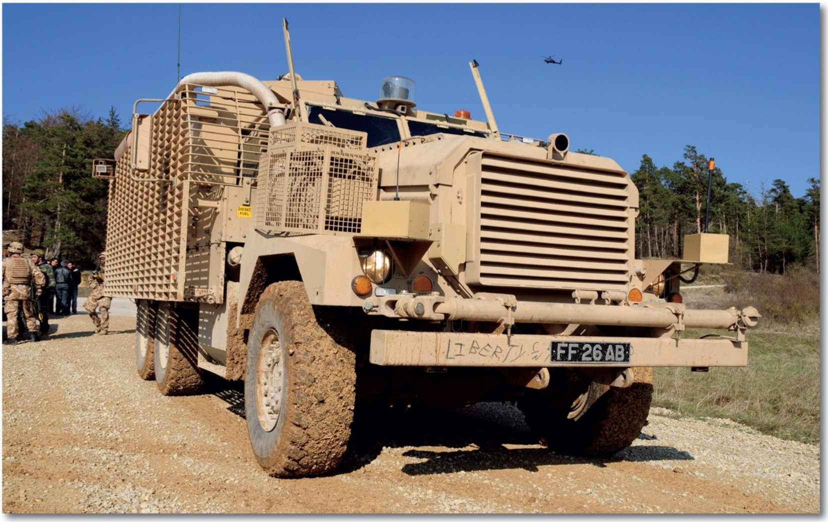

Padlocks are moulded to the side stowage lockers.


Small details are delicately rendered.


Two winter-suited figures are included.


Tracks are link and length, as is the usual practice in Tamiya's new kits.


The front suspension unit is a single part, nicely detailed.



MASTIFF
PROTECTED PATROL VEHICLE

By Ralph Zwilling

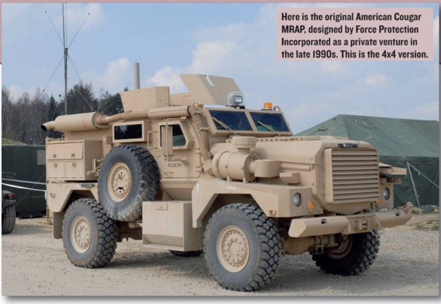
Ralph Zwilling describes the Mastiff Protected Patrol vehicle, developed for use by British forces from the American Cougar MRAP.

The most dangerous threats to soldiers serving today in Iraq and Afghanistan are Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), Explosively Formed Projectiles (EFPs) and small arms fire. Since the start of the operation on 20 March 2003, a huge number of Coalition forces' casualties in Afghanistan and Iraq have been a result of the growing guerilla war and increasing IED threat. The wheeled vehicles in service simply could not withstand the blast of IEDs detonating from below. With its flat bottom and soft-skinned plastic doors, a Humvee struck by a land mine or IED would most likely result in the death of the passengers and the vehicle destroyed beyond repair. The EFPs recently used by insurgents in theater are much more dangerous than common IEDs which are mostly designed around an artillery or mortar round. The EFP charges are generally cylindrical, fabricated from commonly available metal pipes, with the forward end closed by a concave copper or steel disk-shaped liner to create a shaped charge. The explosive material is loaded behind the metal liner to fill the pipe. Upon detonation, the explosive projects the liner to form a projectile at a speed well over 1,000 m/s, depending on the design and type of explosive used. The molten copper penetrators are much more powerful and cause more destruction than solid metal penetrators or the blast and shrapnel of IEDs buried on the side of the roads. Often mounted on crash barriers at window level, they are placed along roadsides at choke points where vehicles must slow down, such as intersections and junctions. This gives the operator time to judge the correct moment to fire.

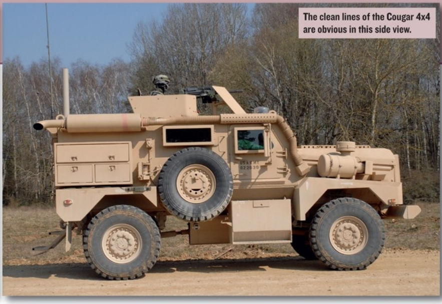
COUGAR MRAP

Because of the increasing threat, troops immediately issued an urgent call for armored and mine-protected vehicles in order to reduce their casualty numbers during operations. Initially, each service responded to the requirement on its own. During its market search the U.S. Marine Corps came across the Cougar H series, which was designed by Force Protection Incorporated as a private venture in the late 1990s based on the knowledge of South African vehicles and marketed since May 2004.

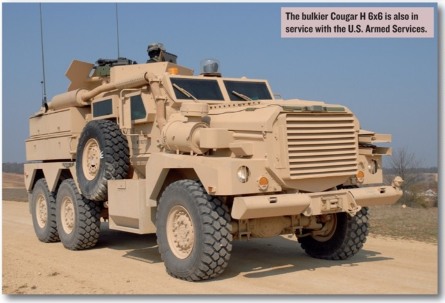
The Cougar is available in two configurations; a 4x4 and 6x6. The vehicles are used in a variety of roles, including HEV (Hardened Engineer Vehicle) and the Joint Explosive Ordnance Disposal Rapid Response Vehicle (JERRV). The Cougar H 4x4 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle and the Cougar H 6x6 JERRV are used by U.S. Armed Forces for their EOD teams, as convoy lead vehicles, first response unit transporters, mine protected field ambulances or as combat patrol vehicles. In April 2004, the U.S.M.C. ordered an initial batch of 30 Cougar H



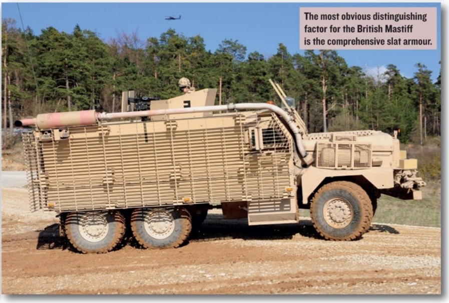
Here is the original American Cougar MRAP, designed by Force Protection Incorporated as a private venture in the late 1990s. This is the 4x4 version.



The clean lines of the Cougar 4x4 are obvious in this side view.



The bulkier Cougar H 6x6 is also in service with the U.S. Armed Services.



The most obvious distinguishing factor for the British Mastiff is the comprehensive slat armour.

4x4. These vehicles were named Cougar Hardened Engineer Vehicle (HEV) and immediately shipped to Iraq. Beginning in late 2004, the EOD teams of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Support Group were the first unit being equipped with the new vehicle. On 17 May 2005, the U.S. Marine Corps System Command ordered another 122 Cougars in the 6x6 JERRV configuration. Nearly one year later on 3 May 2006 the U.S.M.C. placed an order for 79 Cougar H 6x6 JERRVs followed by another order for 200 vehicles in November. Through 2006, Force Protection built and supplied 378 Cougars as a subcontractor to BAE Systems. The production order for 20 additional vehicles was awarded to BAE Systems in October 2006 bringing the total number ordered to 398.

In the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle program, which was originally initiated by the U.S.M.C. and joined by the U.S. Army and other services, three different vehicle categories were specified. The categories basically differ in the payload, gross vehicle weight and mission capabilities. It was decided to acquire several different vehicles with comparable capabilities in each category due to industrial production limitations and because they needed to be fielded rapidly. The vehicles are organized into three categories based on missions. Category I MRAP vehicles like the Cougar H 4x4, MaxxPro and RG-31 are designed for urban operations. The larger Category II vehicles like the Cougar H 6x6 will serve within a wide range of support roles. The largest MRAP is Category III and this role is currently only performed by the Buffalo Mine Protected Clearing Vehicle (MPCV). Recently the U.S. Military has required the fielding of more than 20,000 MRAP vehicles but the numbers change constantly.

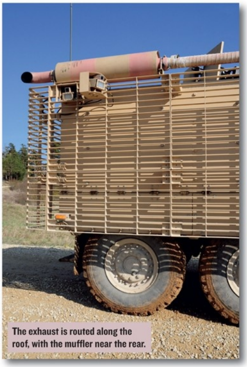
On 30 January 2007, Force Protection received a delivery order from the U.S. Marine Corps for testing, production and sustainability for its MRAP vehicle program. Under an indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity contract, the company was ordered to immediately supply two each Cougar H 4x4s and 6x6s. On 14 February 2007, the U.S. Marine Corps ordered 65 Cougar H 4x4s and 60 Cougar H 6x6s. Almost three months later, on 24 April 2007, the largest order of MRAP vehicles was placed when the U.S. Department of Defense ordered 300 Cougar H 4x4s and 700 Cougar H 6x6s. On 20 June 2007, Force Protection received the next order to produce 395 Cougar H 4x4s and 60 Cougar H 6x6s. An additional order from the U.S. Marine Corps followed on 13 August 2007 with a contract to produce 25 Cougar H 4x4s and 100 Cougar H 6x6s. On 22 October 2007, the U.S.M.C. asked for another 553 Cougar H 4x4s and 247 Cougar H 6x6s. Up to this date, Force Protection had received contracts for more than 2.700 MRAP vehicles.

BRITISH CONTRACT – THE MASTIFF

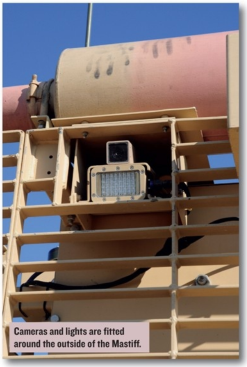
Parallel to the orders for their own troops, on 11 August 2006 the Pentagon awarded Force Protection a US $ 62.9 million contract for 86 British destined Cougars based on the foreign military sales program. The modified vehicles, which received the nickname Mastiff, were planned for delivery by May 2007. On 14 March 2007, Force Protection Incorporated announced that it had recently received a contract modification from the British Ministry of Defense for 22 additional Mastiff Protected Patrol Vehicles (PPV).

The British Army has operated an earlier version of the Cougar since 2002 in the form of the Tempest Mine Protected Vehicle (MPV). In contrast to the U.S. Cougar, the British Mastiff received almost 50 additional features. The first deliveries of Mastiff PPVs were shipped ahead of schedule in November 2006. On 8 October 2007, the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, announced to Parliament plans to buy 140 additional Mastiff vehicles to enhance the mobility and protection afforded to troops operationally deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq. As the UK Ministry of Defense was very satisfied with the performance of the Mastiff PPV, on 22 February 2008 it ordered an additional 174 vehicles that were to be delivered by December 2008. On the same day, Force Protection Incorporated announced that the Italian Ministry of Defense had ordered six Cougar H 6x6 transport vehicles. A Force Protection Incorporated press release from 2 May 2008 stated that the U.S. Congress has approved two Cougar Foreign Military Sales to the United Kingdom. The first contract for six Cougar H 4x4 MRAP vehicles and associated services was awarded on 29 April. The second contract for 151 Cougar MRAP vehicles was awarded on 1 May. The total value of the contracts for the 157 vehicles, which should be named Ridgebacks, is approximately US $ 94 million. With these two new contracts, the UK Ministry of Defense has ordered more than 330 Cougar vehicles from Force Protection Incorporated since February 2008.

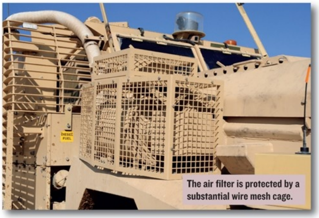
In June 2006, BAE System received a $180 million Foreign ▶



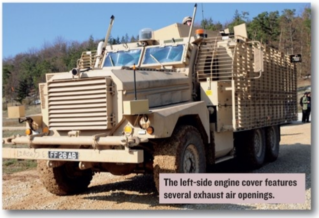
The exhaust is routed along the roof, with the muffler near the rear.



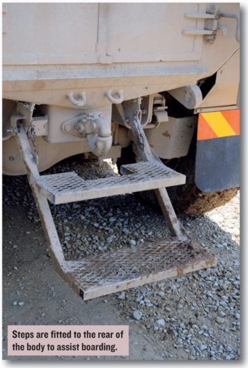
Cameras and lights are fitted around the outside of the Mastiff.



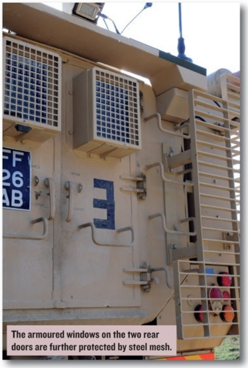
The air filter is protected by a substantial wire mesh cage.



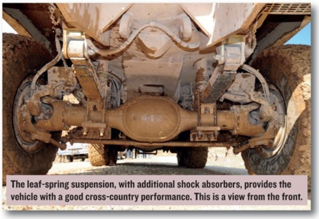
The left-side engine cover features several exhaust air openings.



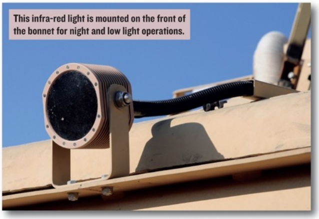
Steps are fitted to the rear of the body to assist boarding.



The armoured windows on the two rear doors are further protected by steel mesh.



The leaf-spring suspension, with additional shock absorbers, provides the vehicle with a good cross-country performance. This is a view from the front.



This infra-red light is mounted on the front of the bonnet for night and low light operations.

Military Sales contract to produce 378 Iraqi Light Armored Vehicles (ILAV) from the U.S. Army Tank Automotive and Armaments Command, which are similar to the U.S. Cougar H 4x4. The first ILAVs were delivered to Iraq 90 days after the contract was awarded. On 8 October 2007, Force Protection Incorporated received another order for 45 ILAVs. In addition to Iraq, approximately 18 of these vehicles are bound for Yemen. The Canadian Expeditionary Force Command ordered five Cougar H 4x4 on 1 May 2007 that were delivered up to August 2007.

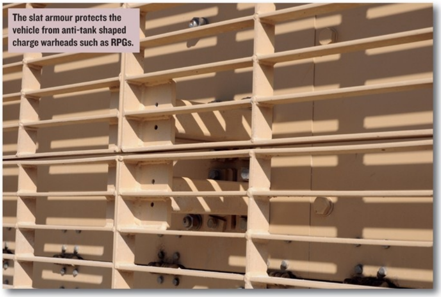
As of 5 April 2008 more than 5,000 mine resistant ambush protected vehicles produced by different manufactures have been delivered to the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

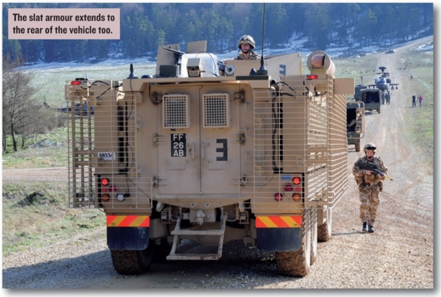
MASTIFF IN DETAIL

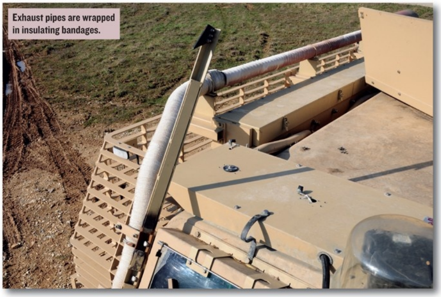
Let's take a detailed look at this new vehicle in the British Army inventory that looks like an ancient dinosaur.

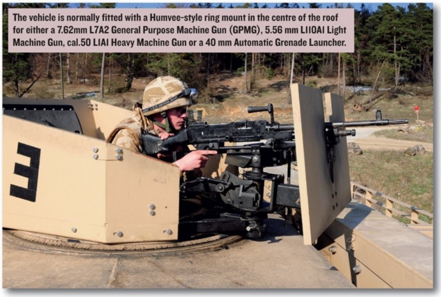
At the front of the Mastiff PPV you will immediately see the huge bonnet with its rectangular armored cooling air intake grill and several exhaust air openings at the left side. The powerful 7.2 litre 6-cylinder Caterpillar C7 diesel engine delivering 330 horsepower is located in the front of the 27 ton vehicle and offers a maximum speed of 55 mph on sealed roads. The cruising range is expected to be 600 miles on road. The reliable HD-3500 SP series automatic transmission, with six forward gears and one reverse gear, is built by Allison Transmission Incorporated. The round air filter located on top of the right mudguard is covered with massive metal wire mesh cage preventing it from being damaged during urban operations or violent riots. A tow-bar for recovery operations is mounted on top of the huge front bumper made of massive steel tubing. The two rectangular boxes with short black antennas attached to the front of the mudguards are part of the Mastiff PPV advanced electronic countermeasures equipment intended to protect the crew from remote controlled Improvised Explosive Devices. The round infrared light mounted at the front of the bonnet and the camera located in the middle above the two ballistic front windows are used to operate the vehicle at night and during low visibility.

Like the original Cougar, the Mastiff Protected Patrol Vehicle also uses a monocoque, bulletproof and blast-proof capsule fitted with transparent bulletproof glass, protecting the crew from small arms fire, mortar and artillery rounds, mine blasts and IEDs. The V-shaped chassis, built by Spartan Chassis Incorporated from Charlotte, Michigan, and increased ground clearance assist


The slat armour protects the vehicle from anti-tank shaped charge warheads such as RPGs.


The slat armour extends to the rear of the vehicle too.


Exhaust pipes are wrapped in insulating bandages.


The vehicle is normally fitted with a Humvee-style ring mount in the centre of the roof for either a 7.62mm L7A2 General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG), 5.56 mm L110A1 Light Machine Gun, cal.50 L1A1 Heavy Machine Gun or a 40 mm Automatic Grenade Launcher.

deflection of a mine or IED blast away from the vehicle's capsule keeping the passengers safe and the vehicle mostly intact. In case of a rollover, the crew (consisting of the commander, driver and up to eight soldiers) is protected by four-point harnesses and single seats with shock absorbers. Even if the vehicle were to roll 360°, the passengers inside should be protected from major injury. The eight dismounts in the rear of the vehicle sit on single seats, four on each side, facing the centreline.

The interior of the Mastiff PPV features several Bowman radios as well as Vehicle User Data Terminals (VUDT) for the driver, commander and the squad leader in the rear compartment. The VUDTs are touch-screen computers with detachable keyboards. Bowman radios are designed to allow large quantities of high quality and timely information to be transmitted across several strata of command. It provides secure voice and data communications, resilient communications through integrated electronic protective measures (EPM), situational awareness through automated position reporting and improved data communications. Bowmans also offer flexibility to allow deployment in a wide range of scenarios, long-range and inter-theater operation through integration with wide-area systems and improved inter-service communications through common equipment, operating systems and protocols. The completed system is designed to encompass all the radios, vehicle and headquarters harness systems, user data terminals, Global Positional System (GPS) satellite-based appliqués for navigation and for automatic position reporting, cryptographic and communications management systems and integrated logistic information systems. The pressing need to replace the ageing Clansman radios used since the 1970s with reliable, secure voice communications has made Bowman one of the UK Army's top priorities.

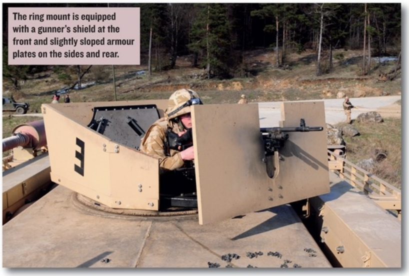
The Mastiff Protected Patrol Vehicles are fitted with removable spall liners made of Light-Appliqué Armor Systems (LAST) armor mounted inside the vehicle to protect the crew from shrapnel. LAST armor, incorporating ceramic appliqué armor hexagons, has been used on American, Canadian and French vehicles since the 1990s. The system uses a unique attachment system, enabling rapid assembly and removal of armor modules. The attachment system is similar to Velcro hook-and-loop fasteners but five times stronger. Based on reliable information, the vertical armor will stop 7.62 x 51 mm ball ammunition and the windows will stop multiple hits with 7,62 x 51 mm ball ammunition. The vehicles can withstand a 30-pound blast of TNT to either the front or rear axles as well as a 15-pound blast to the V-shaped centre portion of the vehicle.

The British Army questions the ability of the average soldier to fire accurately out of the ports of a moving vehicle. Therefore, in contrast to the U.S. Cougar, the British Mastiff has no transparent ballistic viewing or firing ports on the sides of the rear crew compartment, but instead has additional armor blocks that should protect the crew from the deadly effects of Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) or IED explosions.

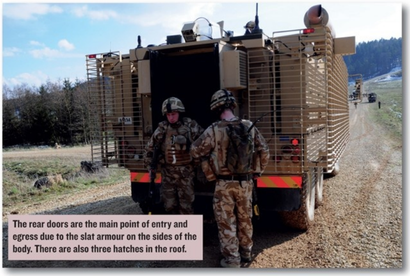
Like the Challenger II, the Mastiff also received slat armor attached to the side and rear of the crew compartment to protect it from anti tank missile attacks. The cage detonates anti-tank shaped charge warheads such as RPGs away from the vehicle and prevents its hot chemical reaction from boring through and causing burns, shock and shrapnel wounds. Because of the additional armor plates and slat armor attached to the sides of the crew compartment, soldiers can only enter or leave the vehicle through the two large doors located in the rear of the vehicle or via the three hatches in the vehicle's roof. The two rear doors include quadratic ballistic windows protected by massive wire mesh giving the soldiers the opportunity to observe the surrounding area before leaving the vehicle. As the vehicle has an increased ground clearance to cope with deadly IED blast, the soldiers have to use small foldable steps to enter or leave their compartment. A 24V power supply outlet is found next to the left taillight.

To provide the crew improved situational awareness without windows on the side of the crew compartment, several cameras and lights have been attached around the vehicle. There are powerful searchlights mounted on ▶

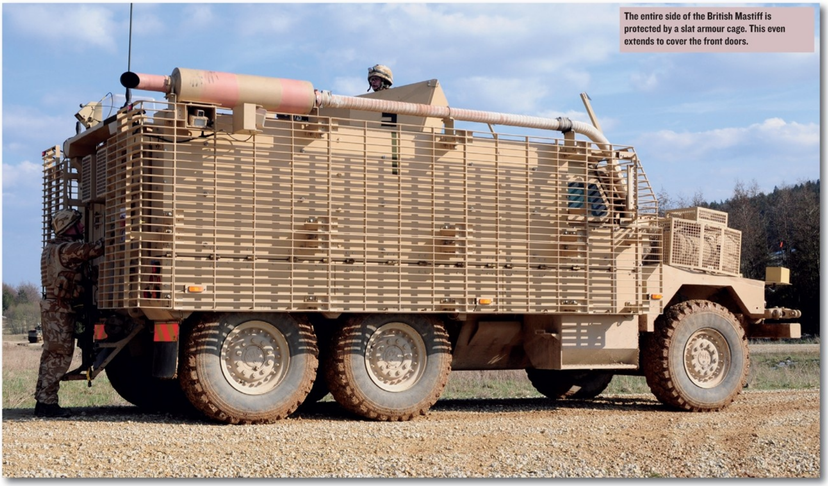
Think Tank - Mastiff Protected Patrol Vehicle



The ring mount is equipped with a gunner's shield at the front and slightly sloped armour plates on the sides and rear.



The rear doors are the main point of entry and egress due to the slat armour on the sides of the body. There are also three hatches in the roof.



The entire side of the British Mastiff is protected by a slat armour cage. This even extends to cover the front doors.

the front and rear of the roof that can be rotated 360° in order to observe the surrounding area in all visibility conditions. Two cable cutters found left and right of the front windows protect the gunner from injury resulting from cables strung across roads.

The diesel fuel tanks of the Mastiff can be found left and right on the side of the V-shaped hull between the first and second axle. The armor package of the vehicle not only protects the crew compartment but also vital components such as the engine and fuel tanks. In contrast to the U.S. Cougar H 6x6 where the exhaust muffler is located on the right side of the roof above the second axle, the British Mastiff PPV's is found on the rear of the vehicle above the third axle.

The leaf-spring suspension, with additional shock absorbers, provides the vehicle with a good cross-country performance even though the vehicle tends to rollover easily, because of the high centre of gravity. Therefore, drivers need to get acclimated to their vehicles in pre-deployment training exercises to know vehicle's mobility limitations. The front axle is a Marmon-Herrington MT-17 while the centre and rear axles are Marmon-Herrington RH-17s. The six Michelin XZL 395/85 R20 tires have Hutchinson VFI run flat inserts giving the crew the chance to leave the scene after being attacked even when the tires receive multiple hits. Unlike the U.S. Cougar 6x6, the Mastiff has no spare tire mounted on the left side of the hull between the first and second axle.

Without preparation, the vehicle has a fording depth of 39" which is sufficient for most operations in Iraq or Afghanistan. The ground clearance under the transfer case is 15", but this varies with vehicle weight. To operate the vehicle in hot conditions like Iraq or Afghanistan, it is equipped with a powerful air-conditioning system. Additionally, the Mastiff PPV is equipped with a fire extinguishing system for the crew compartment.

The vehicle is normally fitted with a Humvee-style ring mount in the centre of the roof for either a 7.62mm L7A2 General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG), 5.56 mm L110A1 Light Machine Gun, cal.50 L1A1 Heavy Machine Gun or a 40 mm Automatic Grenade Launcher built by Heckler & Koch. To protect the gunner from shrapnel or small arms fire, the ring mount is equipped with a gunner's shield at the front and slightly sloped armor plates on the sides and rear. Based on manufacturer's information, the vehicle can also be equipped with a remote weapon station, winch, NBC protection system, storage bins or firing ports. ■

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Major Richard Shepherd; First Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers; and Captain Junel Jeffrey; Joint Multinational Readiness Centre Hohenfels; for their outstanding support making this report possible.

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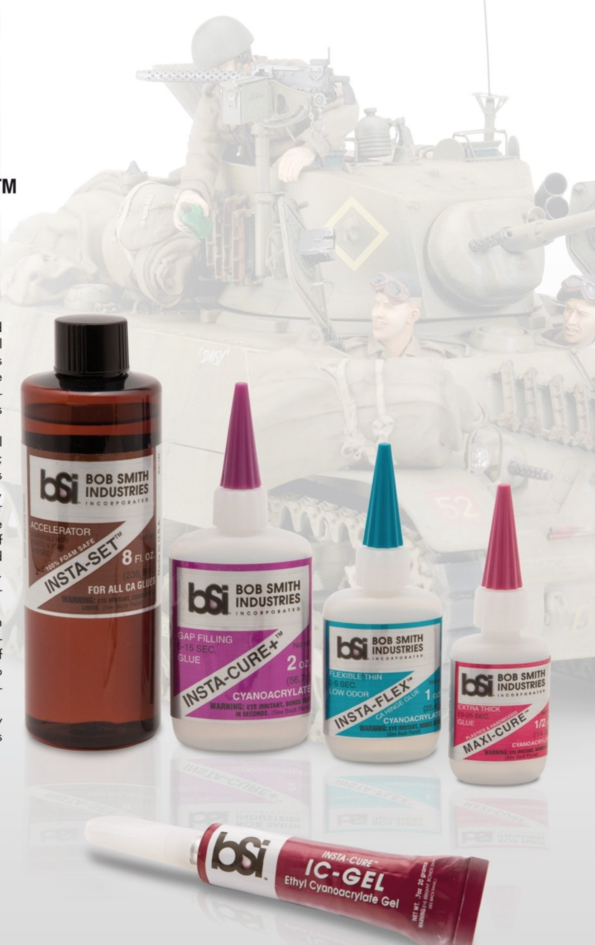
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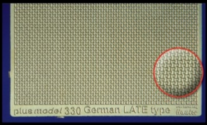
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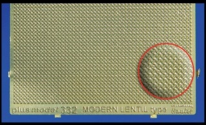
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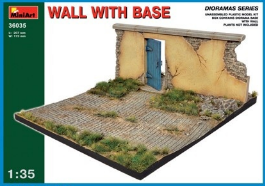
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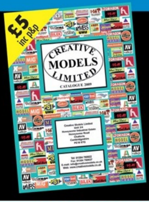
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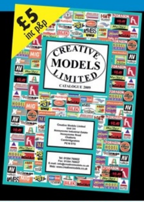
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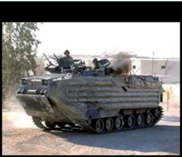

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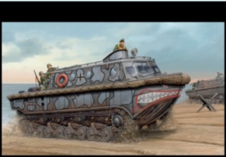

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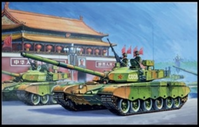

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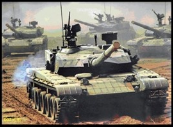

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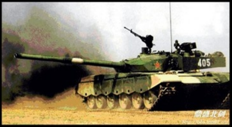

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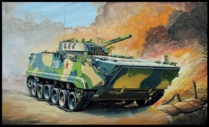

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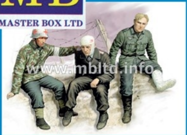
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IT'S A MINEFIELD OUT THERE

Sam Dwyer finds that Cromwell Models' 1:35 scale Cougar MRAP is a surprisingly fast and precise build.

USMC 521
TIEDOWN POINT
TIEDOWN POINT

The Cougar MRAP is a family of armoured vehicles produced by Force Protection Inc in the USA. These specialty vehicles are protected against small arms, land mines and IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) using a combination of design features and materials to protect both the crew and engine. The basic hull consists of a monocoque type, V-shaped structure that extends to the engine bay and serves to direct the blast up and away from under the vehicle. Dual air-conditioners help keep heavily dressed troops from overheating in the 100+ degree F temperatures of Iraq. This is combat with comfort.

MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected) vehicles have "V" shaped hulls to deflect away any explosive forces originating below the vehicle, thereby protecting the vehicle and its passenger compartment. This design dates to the 1970s. It was first introduced in 1978 with the South African Buffel (Buffalo) armoured personnel carrier (APC), another South African APC the Casspir was the inspiration and prototype for the US Marines MRAP project. Various military forces around the world have since used derivatives of these vehicles. Operationally, the concept is to replace HMMWV type vehicles with a more robust, survivable vehicle when on patrol "outside the wire."

The US military plans to have over 10,000 of these in service, distributed between the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force. Cougars are also used by Canada, UK, Iraq, Italy, Italy, Poland and Hungary. Australia uses its own home grown MRAP, the Bushmaster, and this has been sold to Great Britain and the Dutch. The Bushmaster was also tested by the USA but a local product was selected, the Cougar you see here.

Depending on configuration, the Cougar has a crew of 2, and can carry 8 dismounts (infantry types) under armour and in air conditioned comfort. It is powered by a Caterpillar diesel engine producing 330 HP, and has an operational range of nearly 1000km. Its combat weight is a touch over 23 tons, and has a top speed of 105km/h. Paint it in a gloss finish and all the Hollywood A-List will be clamouring to get one!

It has been reported that roadside bomb attacks and fatalities were down almost 99% partially due to MRAPs, which is a remarkable statistic.

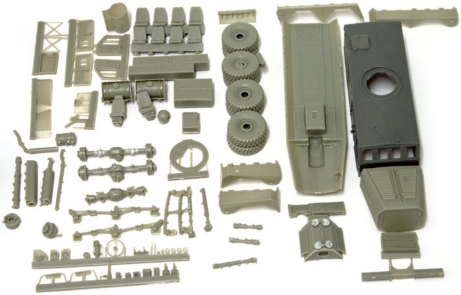
CROMWELL MODELS' COUGAR

Cromwell Models is a small cottage industry model company producing all-resin models of outstanding quality. The Cougar MRAP is no exception. The kit consists of about 120 resin parts, cast in a greenish grey resin. There were a couple of tiny bubble holes in my kit, nothing that a tiny dab of Tamiya Putty couldn't handle. Cromwell's casting is amongst the finest that I have ever seen. The intricacies of the casting and the undercuts they get out of the moulds are incredible.

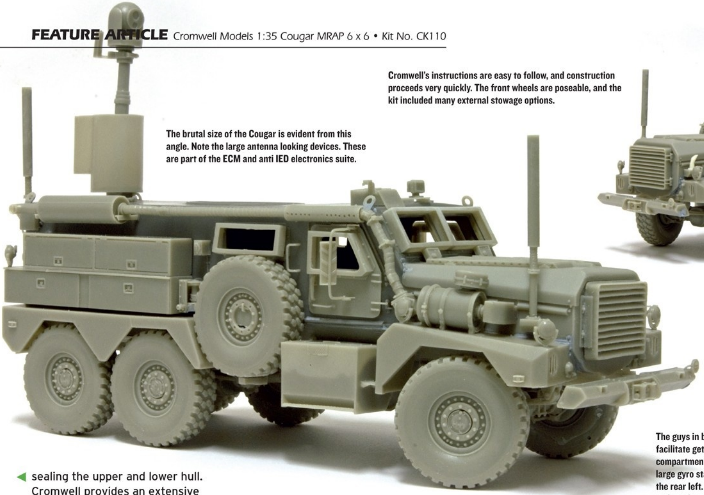
Construction begins with the hefty undercarriage. The Cougar is 6x6, so has 3 massive differentials. On the real thing these are made by Marmon Herrington, the same folks that made armoured cars during WWII. The suspension is suitably chunky and is made up of surprisingly few parts. It is all cast straight as a die and fits together perfectly. In less than 30 minutes I had the hull sitting on it wheels. The wheels themselves are a one-piece affair and pleasingly, when fitted to the suspension, the whole show sits flat, no rocking!

I wanted to build the interior up, paint it and weather it before

▶

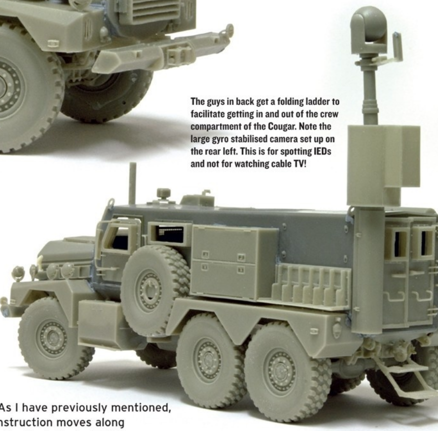


Cromwell's Cougar MRAP. This is what AUD$300 buys you - the finest resin casting on the market, and a complete kit of a truly unique and massive vehicle!



The brutal size of the Cougar is evident from this angle. Note the large antenna looking devices. These are part of the ECM and anti IED electronics suite.

Cromwell's instructions are easy to follow, and construction proceeds very quickly. The front wheels are poseable, and the kit included many external stowage options.



The guys in back get a folding ladder to facilitate getting in and out of the crew compartment of the Cougar. Note the large gyro stabilised camera set up on the rear left. This is for spotting IEDs and not for watching cable TV!

◀ sealing the upper and lower hull. Cromwell provides an extensive interior representing an APC vehicle, with 2 rows of 4 seats facing inward. Each seat has a 4 point harness cast onto it, with the belt in a different position on each seat. This is a nice touch. There are only 12 parts to the interior itself, but there is no apparent compromise in detail. The Cougar sees a departure from the way in which armoured vehicle interiors are painted, which is usually in a satin or gloss white. The Cougar is painted in forest green, with additional armour panels on the inside of the upper hull and ceiling being US CARC Tan. I painted the interior using Tamiya Nato Green and Vallejo Iraqi Sand. All the detail painting was done using Vallejo acrylics. I applied a heavy coat of sand coloured pastels to the interior, then rubbed them partially off with a rubber erasing brush, to get that worn look, along with ingrained dirt and grime. Stowage was painted again using Vallejo acrylics. I then joined the upper and lower hulls together; even with minimal clean up, the fit was near perfect. There was only a slight gap at the rear of the hull, below the large double back doors. This was filled with a couple of applications of Mr Surfacer 1000, blended in with a cotton ear cleaner moistened with Tamiya liquid glue. The glue doesn't affect the resin, but smoothes out the Mr Surfacer, all but making the gaps disappear.

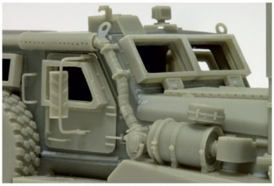
The outside of the Cougar is perhaps the most interesting part of this build. Before adding all the external features and fittings the V shaped hull is evident. The more you add, the less obvious is this feature. Cromwell has made their parts breakdown virtually the same as the real vehicle, so all external features are add-ons, i.e. fenders, fuel tanks, stowage lockers and spare tyre assemblies. Cromwell cast these individually, and they all glue on perfectly to the now unified hull parts. As can be seen by the photos, there are no photo-etched parts in this model, and I have added no Evergreen styrene details.

The real vehicle is a chunky behemoth, as is the model in 1/35 scale. I still ran some Mr Surfacer around the hull where I thought gaps would appear, just to be sure. Again, this was smoothed out with a cotton bud with Tamiya super thin glue.

As I have previously mentioned, construction moves along frighteningly fast, which is faintly ironic. You expect to get great value for money out of a model this expensive - that it would go together well, but at a measured pace. I guess if it was this expensive, but had terrible fit and was poorly cast, we as modellers would complain about that. Maybe it's a case of modellers never being pleased! Needless to say, the entire construction for this model took less than a day, interspersed with painting sessions for the interior. Everything fitted where it was supposed to with few or no gaps.

This model is a bit of a hybrid of sorts, the interior being configured for an APC vehicle, but the exterior being fitted out as a JERRV. JERRV stands for Joint EOD Rapid Response Vehicle; basically a vehicle for dealing with the very thing the vehicle is protected against, roadside bombs and IED's. The large assembly on the left rear is a gyro-stabilised camera mounted on an extendable platform. It is designed to to detect bombs and IED's beyond

Cromwell provides a myriad of external stowage options on this kit. Here I have added external spotlights. There seems to be no rhyme nor reason to the fitting of these in the field, so study reference photos carefully for correct placement.

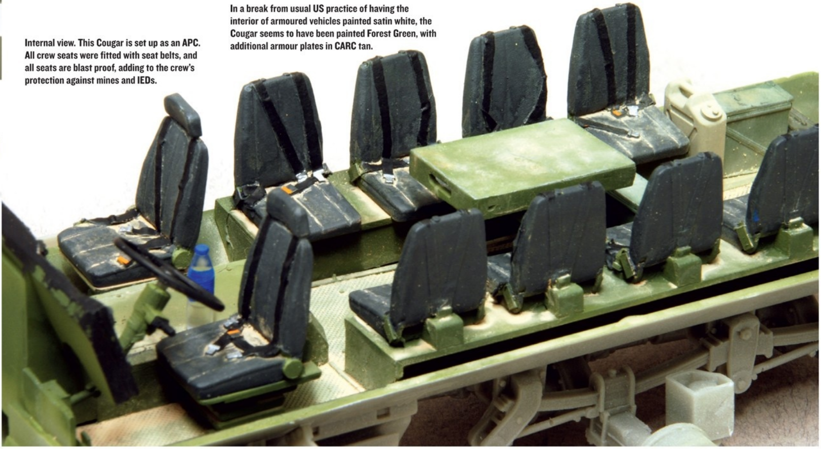


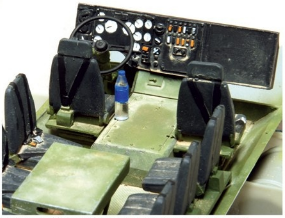
Here is the external air filter and exhaust pipe. Much of this is cast as one piece, which is a credit to the skill of Cromwell's casters.

Keep left unless overtaking! You can see how complete the Cromwell kit is straight from the box by the lack of extras added in these photos - no white Evergreen plastic, no etc.

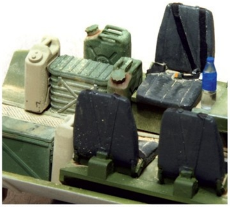
Internal view. This Cougar is set up as an APC. All crew seats were fitted with seat belts, and all seats are blast proof, adding to the crew's protection against mines and IEDs.

In a break from usual US practice of having the interior of armoured vehicles painted satin white, the Cougar seems to have been painted Forest Green, with additional armour plates in CARC tan.

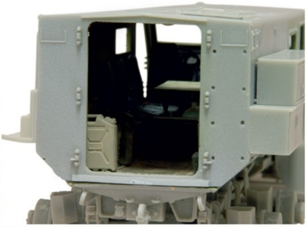




The stand in the centre of the crew compartment is the gunner's platform. The gunner can stand on this when working out with the .50 cal or Mk. 19 in the turret fitted to the roof of the Cougar.



I added some modern stowage items to the rear of the crew compartment. Not a great deal is visible when this kit is closed up, but it's better to have some stowage there than a hole lot of nothing!



The moment of truth. Sealing the upper and lower hull always leads to some gaps, this one at the rear being the biggest. Again, amazing casting by Cromwell leads to rapid construction.

their lethal range. Cromwell cast this set up in six blemish free parts. There are various shots I have seen online that shows a hodge-podge of external set ups, so I felt confident in fitting this impressive part of the model. I also added numerous spotlights to the front fenders. Again, images of the real thing show no rhyme nor reason as to how or where these lights were mounted. Lastly, I added the armoured glass frames to all the doors and window areas, without fitting the glass. I used Testor's Clear Parts Cement to temporarily fix these in place. These finer details were the last items before paint.

CAPTURING THE COLOUR

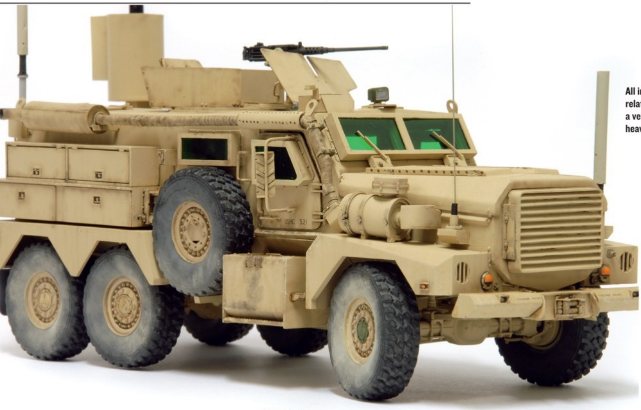
I began painting this bombproof behemoth by giving the whole thing a decent coat of Tamiya Grey Primer. This product comes in a rattle can, and is fantastic. It covers really well and also provides a chemical key for following paint to adhere. I gently heated the can before spraying, so that the paint literally shrinks as it cools and cures, really binding to the resin. Pleasingly, this primer coat didn't highlight any areas that needed attention, neither bubbles nor construction gaps.

Selecting model paint can be the source of a lot of grief, but you would think that choosing the correct paint for vehicles like the Cougar that is finished in a seemingly simple single tan colour would be a snap. However, looking at images of Cougars deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, the colour seems to change depending on the time of day and the atmospheric conditions prevailing at the time. Morning or evening light seems to add an orange hue compared to the midday sun, and sand in the air (savage sand storms are common in Iraq) can throw the light orange too. With that in mind, I painted my model using Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow. This colour was too dark, and too yellow. Next up was Tamiya XF-57 Buff. This colour was better than the last, but was too brown. My final try was Vallejo 70819 Iraqi Sand. This is meant to be used for Iraqi vehicles (I would have thought rust and oilstain colours would be more appropriate), but it was also a perfect match for US CARC tan. I loaded some Iraqi Sand with a few drops of water and two drops ▶

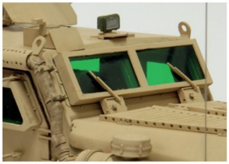
When desk lamps attack! When I was briefly away from the desk, my lamp toppled, shearing off all the lamps on one side, and a Duke antenna from the other.

Unfortunately, I was only able to locate one lamp, so some rapid repairs were necessary. I sanded the damaged area back, and set about repairing the damaged paint.

Disaster averted. This area copped the most lamp related damage, not that you can tell now!



All images I could find of the Cougar show the vehicle to be relatively clean, with absolutely no chipping. Weathering a vehicle in good condition is more of a challenge than a heavily weathered veteran vehicle.



Cromwell supplies a sheet of clear green acetate for the armoured glass. When fitted this glass looks very realistic.

of Windex window cleaner into the airbrush, and let rip. Don't be told otherwise, Vallejo Acrylics spray beautifully, drying to a pleasing semi satin finish. The Windex breaks surface tension and allows the paint to spray perfectly.

WHEN DESK LAMPS ATTACK

At this point, disaster struck. One of my desk lamps decided to tip over when I was out of the room, shearing most of the details off the front left fender, and smashing one of the Warlock anti IED antennas off. I was able to salvage the antenna, but lost all but one of the delicate spotlights. So, out with the fine sand paper to clean the fenders up, and out with the airbrush to touch up the paintwork. GGRR!

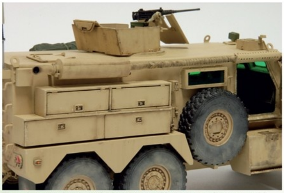
WEATHERING

I always err towards a lighter shade as a base coat, because a lot of my follow-on techniques tend to darken the model. I find that it is always easier to darken a model than to lighten it. Nearly every shot of in-service Cougars show vehicles in surprisingly good condition. My first step in weathering is to study images of the real thing and work out how far I want to go. I didn't want a vehicle covered with chips or excessive colour modulation or fading, as this wouldn't be realistic for the vehicle being depicted. I mixed up a thin wash from Winsor and Newton Raw Umber and Lamp Black, and applied it evenly over the whole model. Before this had dried, I applied a second, slightly thicker and darker wash around details, in hinge lines and in areas of shadow. This was allowed to dry overnight before moving on to the next step, dry brushing.

Dry brushing has fallen out of vogue, like brown corduroy slacks. Done well though, dry brushing is an effective technique for applying lighter faded paint and highlighting areas of detail. Used in conjunction with a dark wash, a gentle dry brush can enhance detail and add visual interest, tricking the eye into thinking there is more detail on the model than there really is.

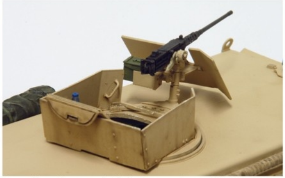
The next step was to apply a subtle post-shade. This technique has been discussed ad nauseum before, but to break it down, it is a thin airbrushed mix of mostly clean thinners, with a drop or two of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-63 Red Brown, airbrushed around detail and in shadow areas. I concentrated the post-shade around heavily handled areas so locker doors, vehicle doors and door handles, the weapons station, and of course the exhaust pipe received the most attention. The real exhaust pipe is wrapped with asbestos tape, and Cromwell has

> **"Dry brushing has fallen out of vogue, like brown corduroy slacks..."**

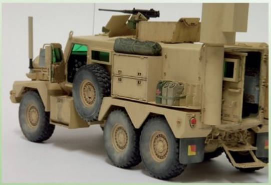


The exhaust and stowage lockers received heavier weathering, to add visual interest and to break up the monotony of an all sand leviathan!

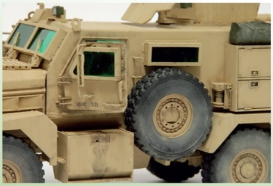
Not much to be seen inside, it's very dark, but at least I know there's a full interior in there!



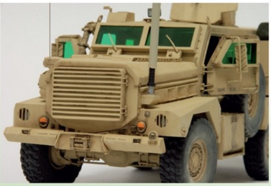
Cromwell supplies a very detailed weapons station, and it's up to the modeller to choose which weapon to mount, I've seen .50 cals, Mk 19 40mm GLs and also M249 Minimis mounted in these turrets.



Cougars seem to not carry much stowage. I guess the crew were able to return to base for tea and toast after operations each day, so there wasn't a great need to carry extensive external stowage. I added some jerry cans and other stowage.



This Cougar is a USMC vehicle, but could have been modelled as an Air Force or Army vehicle. Note the winch to assist in hoisting the spare tyre.



The front end is hardly aerodynamic, but it is brutally purposeful. You can see the V shape of the hull, which is integral to the design of this mine protected vehicle.

captured this look to a tee. The exhaust also received another thicker wash to further highlight this detail.

Mercifully these washes and post shade coats left the model with a near dead flat paint scheme, no nasty glossy patches, so no final flat coat was required.

I added decals last. Luckily the real vehicle only has minimal markings. I added the 'Do Not Overtake Turning Vehicle' signs to the rear mud flaps. I have seen various vehicles in Iraq fitted with these, and thought they'd add a nice splash of colour to the vehicle.

The decals were sourced from various Echelon Fine Details decal sets. These decals are fantastic, in my opinion the finest waterslide decals on the market.

The kit supplird a sheet of green acetate sheet for the windows. I gently prised off the armoured window pieces, measured the internal dimensions, and carefully cut out sections of this green plastic. Each piece was secured with Testor's clear parts glue, and each window assembly was then carefully reglued to the model.

All the lights and reflectors were painted with Vallejo acrylics, as was all the detail painting on the model, the lights being topped off with a coat of Future floor polish. This model was a departure for me, I only used pastels very sparingly on the wheels. Again referring to reference images of the real thing, these were very lightly weathered.

This is a tremendous model from Cromwell, who should be applauded for releasing such an interesting and unique subject.

Model courtesy of my haemorrhaging credit card. ■

Modelspec

Cromwell 1/35 scale Cougar MRAP 6x6 Kit No.CK110

Materials

All resin kit built out of box, stowage from spares box, Tamiya modern stowage set.
Cheap Chinese sand coloured pastel chalks.

Paints used

Vallejo acrylic paint - 70819 Iraqi Sand; Panzer Aces 306 Dark Rubber; 70950 Black; 70820 Off White; 70924 Russian Uniform Green; 992 Neutral Grey; 851 Bright Orange; 947 Red.
Windsor & Newton Lamp Black and Raw Umber oil paints.

References

Concord Mini Colour Series 7519 Iraq Insurgency Pt 2
Various public domain images sourced from the Internet.

✓ Truly unique subject; High quality casting; Ease of construction; Virtual guarantee of being the only person with one of these kits on the table at your local model competition!

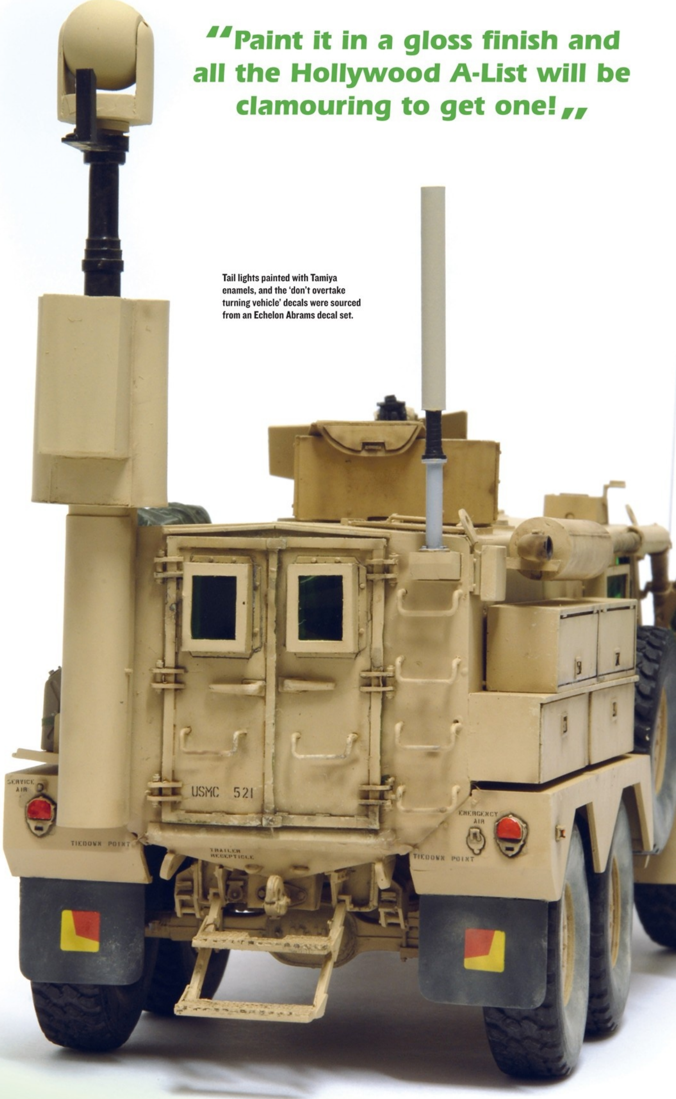
✗ Expensive; Hard to source kit (intermittent release from Cromwell).

Available from

Cromwell Models - cromwellmodels@yahoo.co.uk

Rating ●●●●●●●●●○

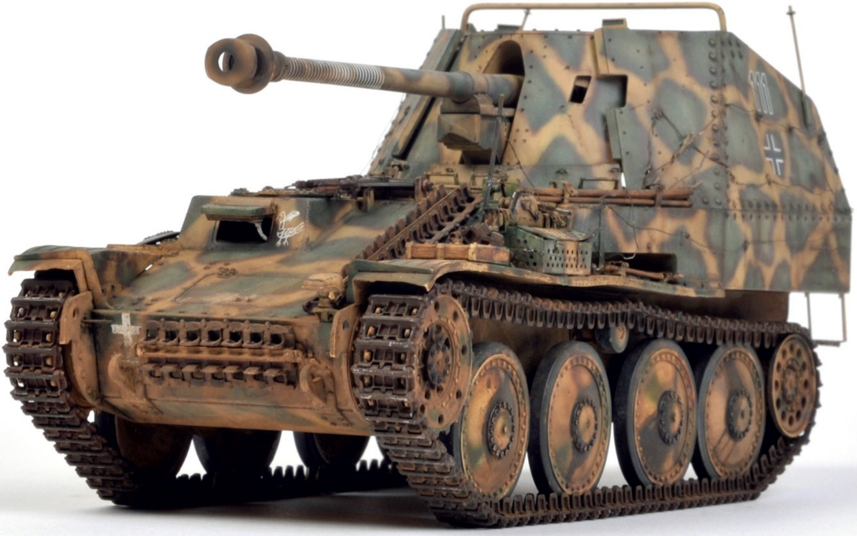
> **"Paint it in a gloss finish and all the Hollywood A-List will be clamouring to get one!"**



Tail lights painted with Tamiya enamels, and the 'don't overtake turning vehicle' decals were sourced from an Echelon Abrams decal set.

CZECH MATE!

Chris Wauchop superdetails Tamiya's exquisite Marder III Ausf.M



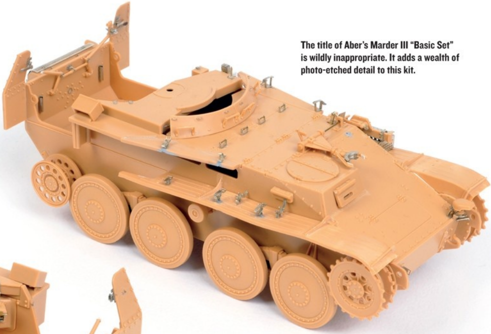
The Marder III was a typically expedient German response to the Wehrmacht's encounters with heavily armoured KV-1 and T-34 tanks in the early stages of Operation Barbarossa. The chassis of the obsolescent Czech Pz.Kpfw. 38(t) was matched with 7.5 cm and 7.6 cm anti-tank guns to deliver a new tank destroyer – the Marder III. The Marder III had quite a high profile and negligible armour, but it was a low cost and easily deployed weapon against contemporary Soviet armour.

Tamiya released their 1:35 scale Marder III Ausf. M kit in late 2002. This is the version fitted with the German 7.5 cm Pak 40 anti-tank gun. Tamiya previously released another 1:35 scale version of the Marder III equipped with the captured Soviet 7.62 cm Pak 36(r) on the same chassis, but with a radically different superstructure adaptation. I think the Ausf. M looks much more streamlined and attractive than the 7.62 cm-armed version

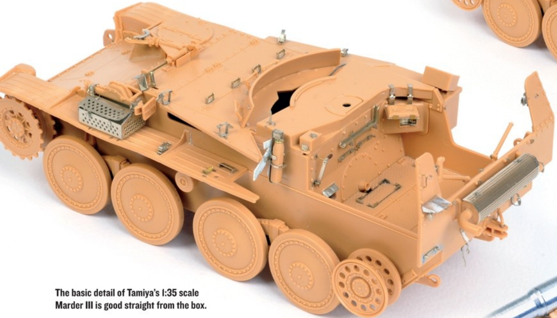
Both of Tamiya's Marders earned well-deserved accolades. They are well detailed and construction is quite straightforward. Even so, there are a few shortcomings including very simple flexible vinyl tracks, underwhelming ammunition rack detail and absence of a tow cable. I used several after-market detail sets on my Marder III Ausf. M, which greatly improved these aspects and many more, but undoubtedly made the process a whole lot more complex!

PHUN WITH PHOTO-ETCH

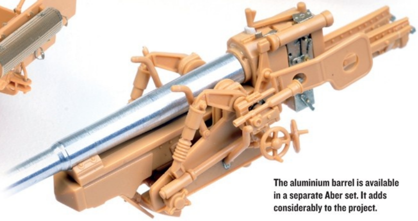
The main after-market item used was Aber's remarkable photo-etched detail set. This provides a wealth of exceptionally well detailed (and often workable) replacement and extra detail parts. Personally, I find these sets a bit frustrating unless you have very good photographic reference to hand. Fortunately, this time I did have such reference in the form of Model Art's "AFV Super Detail Photo Book Vol. 4, Marder III", without which the accurate



The title of Aber's Marder III "Basic Set" is wildly inappropriate. It adds a wealth of photo-etched detail to this kit.



The basic detail of Tamiya's 1:35 scale Marder III is good straight from the box.



The aluminium barrel is available in a separate Aber set. It adds considerably to the project.

application of the photo-etched parts would have been almost impossible due to the very vague and often misleading schematic diagrams provided. These misgivings aside, the kit does benefit hugely from the addition of this set.

I also used Aber's Pak 40/3 turned aluminium barrel and machined brass muzzle brake. This set goes together flawlessly.

The kit is also lifted by the use of WWII Productions' resin replacement tracks. These are individual resin links, and they do not require glue. They are simply snapped together, resulting in a deliciously realistic droop to the top track run. The only downside to these tracks is that they can be delicate after assembly.

The addition of Tamiya's brass 7.5 cm projectiles is another noticeable improvement. These appear to have been specifically designed to fit the ammunition racks of this model, adding gratifyingly to the general clutter of the vehicle's fighting compartment.

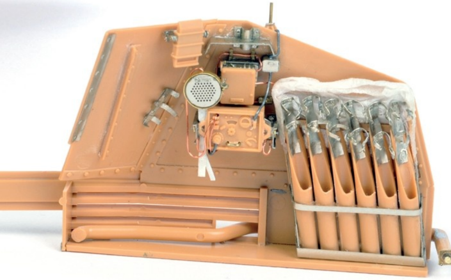
The ammunition rack covers started out life as Kleenex tissues. The tissues were first cut and folded to shape. Once they were fitted in a suitable position, the tissue paper was soaked with white woodworking glue. Once dry, the racks were glued into place.

The fit of Tamiya's fighting compartment walls is so good that they and the gun may be painted separately prior to assembly. Exterior fittings were all glued in place before the main parts were brought together too.

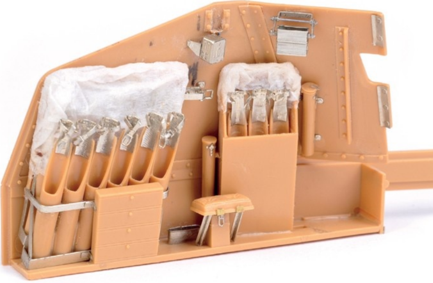
Aber's working tool clamps enable you to paint most of the tools separately and add them to the model after painting and weathering is complete. The tools may then simply be clamped in place just like their full-sized counterparts. The photo-etched clamps are unbelievably fiddly, but they justify the effort, the tears and considerable cursing!

Some other details were added to supplement the Aber photo-etch. These include a weld bead on the front and left side of the driver's compartment. This was achieved by gluing .020" styrene rod with liquid cement and, while the plastic is still soft, textured with the point of a needle. Brass tube and rod were also used to replace the kits plastic tarpaulin supports (kit parts 50). The small cover above the rear formation light was replaced with a new part fabricated from thick aluminium foil.

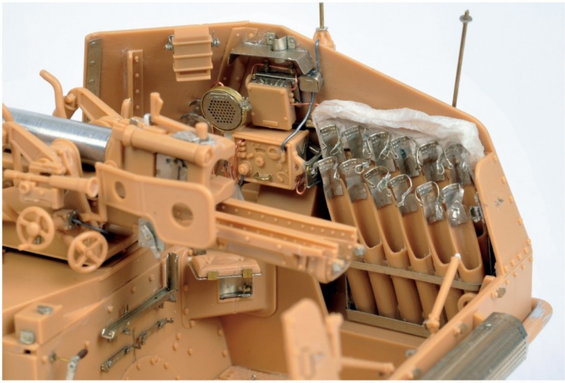
To make it easier to clean up the join between the exhaust pipe (kit oart G33) and muffler (kit part G38), I cut the end off the pipe past the joint gasket from part G38 (the muffler) and glued it to part G33 (the exhaust pipe). This join was filled and sanded. The new muffler end of part G33 was now drilled and a short length of brass rod super-glued in place. A corresponding hole was drilled into ▶



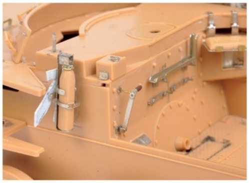
The interior of the starboard sidewall takes shape. We can see a mixture of Aber, fine wire and tissue paper filling out the details.



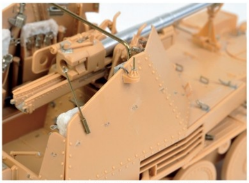
The port sidewall features even more stowage, and more folding of fiddly photo-etch.



The level of detail may best be appreciated close-up. It is a shame that much of the detail will be obscured by the gun and the remaining shields.



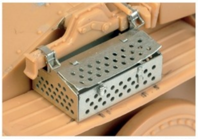
Some details were also scratch built from scrap plastic.



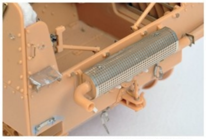
The kit's plastic tarpaulin mounts were replaced with items scratch built from brass tube and wire.

Aber's tool clamps actually work like the real thing.

The machined brass muzzle brake is a thing of beauty.

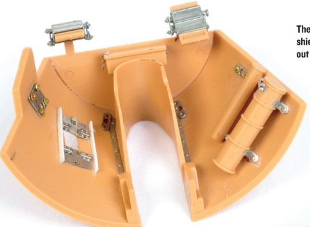


The perforated photo-etched tool box was slightly beaten up before attaching it to the kit fender.

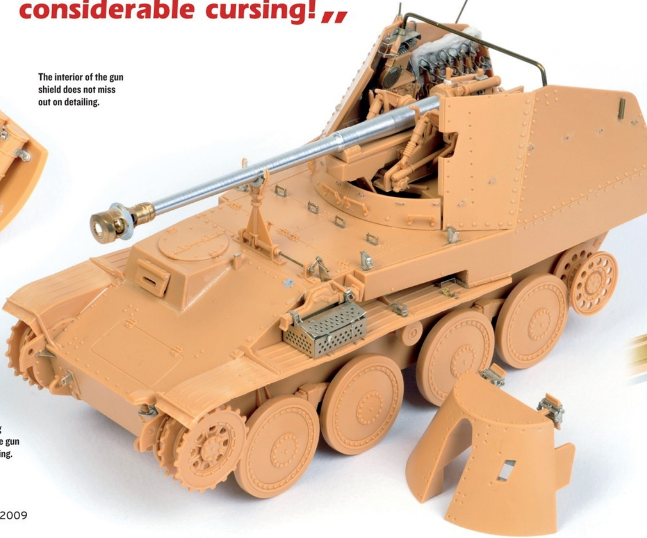


The small cover above the rear formation light was replaced with a new part cut from thick aluminium foil.

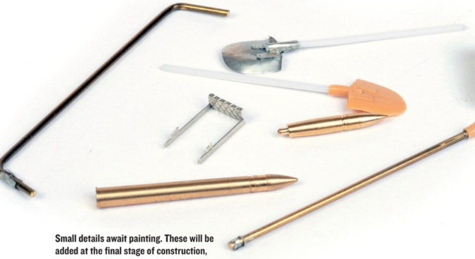
> **"The workable photo-etched clamps are unbelievably fiddly, but they justify the effort, the tears and the considerable cursing!"**



The interior of the gun shield does not miss out on detailing.



Coming together – the fighting compartment sidewalls and the gun are tested for fit prior to painting.



Small details await painting. These will be added at the final stage of construction, after the entire model has been painted.

WWII Productions tracks add greatly to the model. These are individual resin track links that simply click together after clean-up.

the pipe-joining point of part G38. The exhaust pipe (G33) may now be glued to part E13. All parts should now be dry-fitted to make sure that everything lines up properly. Whew! Sounds complicated, but it is really not too bad.

Next, the kit fenders (parts E2 and E10) had their edges thinned. This was achieved by carefully sanding, filing and grinding with my Motor Tool running at a fairly slow speed. Once this was completed, the thinned edges were bent and buckled with a bit of gentle persuasion. Now the entire fender was gently bent and twisted to replicate the condition of the vehicle as it may have looked just before it was captured and photographed in Holland.

PAINTING AND WEATHERING

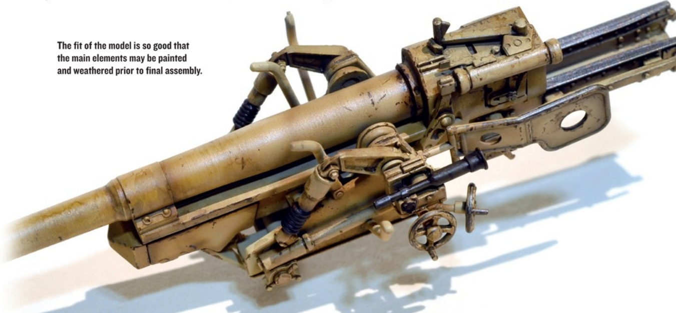
The entire vehicle received a coat of German Dark Yellow. This was my custom mix of about 50/50 Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow and XF-2 Flat White. The green blotches were applied next using Tamiya's XF-26 Deep Green. These were carefully outlined with XF-64 Red Brown. All the blotches and outlines were applied freehand using my Testor Aztek airbrush fitted with the fine tan-coloured tip.

The green blotches looked a little vibrant and contrasty at this stage. Scrubbing with a pale, sand coloured pastel chalk toned them down. I have a small paint brush cut down to a short stump that I use for this specialised task.

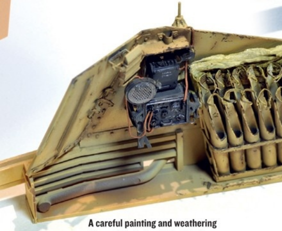
The model now received a thin airbrushed coat of Future floor polish. When this glossy coat had thoroughly dried, I applied a very thin wash of 60% Tamiya XF-64 Red Brown enamel mixed with 40% XF-1 Flat Black enamel, heavily diluted with Humbrol enamel thinner. I find this is an excellent risk-free weathering method because any area where the wash is too thick, or has pooled, or just does not look quite right, may be worked before the wash has completely dried.

Decals were applied at this point. Although they sometimes look thick on their backing film, I rarely have any problems with Tamiya decals, and they look thin and opaque on the surface of the model. The markings were settled in with a brushed application of r Mark Softer.

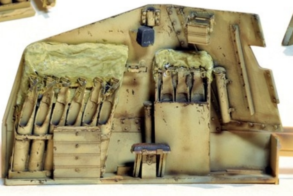
While the oil wash was still tacky, selective areas received a dusting of a dark, earthy brown (Faber-Castell No. 179) pastel chalk dust. Other areas, such as the front, rear, sides and wheels, received various heavier applications of the dust mixed with water to a thin muddy consistency. Oily stains and scratches were added to appropriate areas such as the wheel hubs using the Red Brown and Black enamel wash used earlier. ▶



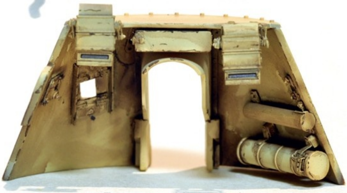
The fit of the model is so good that the main elements may be painted and weathered prior to final assembly.



A careful painting and weathering job really brings out the detail.



Chipping, washes and selective airbrushed weathering conveys the impression of a battle-weary interior.



The periscopes and the opening in the gun shield are designed to operate.

◀ The tracks were now due for similar weathering treatment. They received a good coating of the Brown/Black mix, but this time using Tamiya's water-soluble acrylics. When this coat had dried on the tracks, a very watery wash of XF-64 Red Brown was brushed along the tracks, making sure that it reached every nook and cranny. This results in quite a convincing dry, rusty appearance. A 2B pencil was then used to impart a worn metal effect to the track shoes..

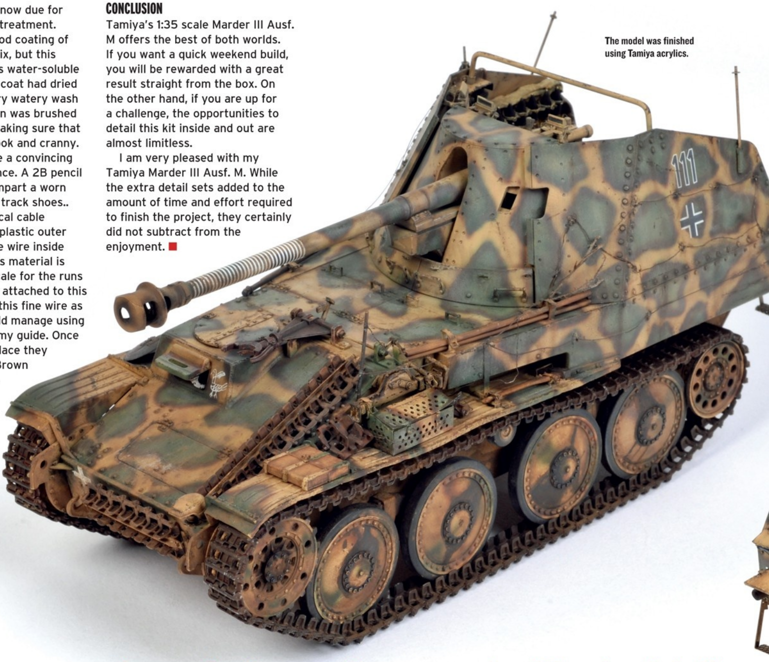
Now, thin electrical cable was stripped of its plastic outer coating and the fine wire inside was unravelled. This material is exactly the right scale for the runs of camouflage wire attached to this vehicle. I attached this fine wire as accurately as I could manage using the photo I had as my guide. Once the wires were in place they were painted Red Brown using a 10/0 brush.

The model finally received a coat of Polly Scale Flat acrylic finish.

CONCLUSION

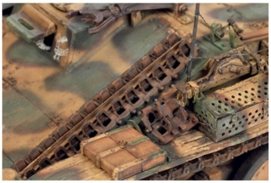
Tamiya's 1:35 scale Marder III Ausf. M offers the best of both worlds. If you want a quick weekend build, you will be rewarded with a great result straight from the box. On the other hand, if you are up for a challenge, the opportunities to detail this kit inside and out are almost limitless.

I am very pleased with my Tamiya Marder III Ausf. M. While the extra detail sets added to the amount of time and effort required to finish the project, they certainly did not subtract from the enjoyment. ■

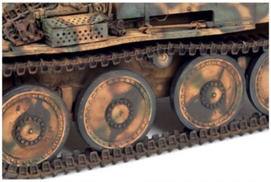


The model was finished using Tamiya acrylics.

> "If you are up for a challenge, the opportunities to detail this kit inside and out are almost limitless"



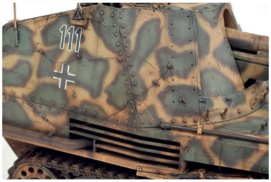
The track links were treated to a good coating of the Brown/Black mix followed by a very watery wash of XF-64 Red Brown.



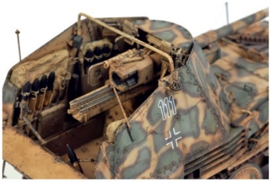
The oily stains around the wheel hub are the Red Brown and Black enamel wash applied by paint brush.

Tamiya's small decals performed flawlessly.

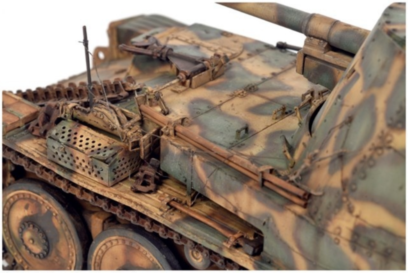
Tools have now been securely stowed in their clamps.



Fine electrical wire has been run along the outside of the superstructure. This held camouflage in place on the real vehicle.

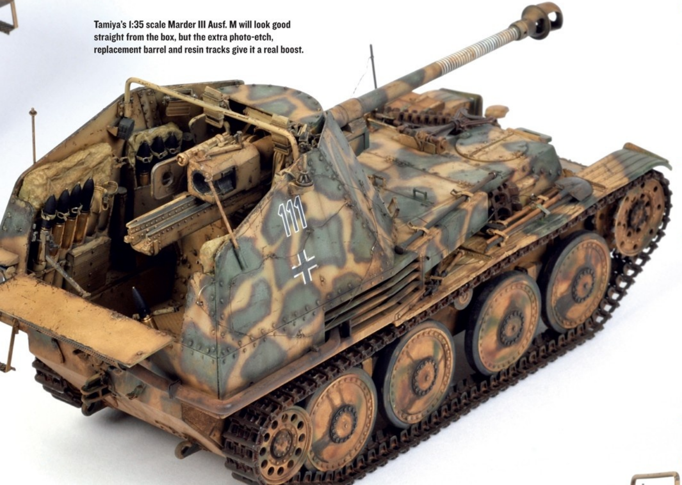


Ammunition hides much of the detail in the racks, but some are left empty.



Tools, painted, weathered and in place.

Careful weathering of detail parts, such as the fold-down rear flap, is well worth the effort.



Tamiya's 1:35 scale Marder III Ausf. M will look good straight from the box, but the extra photo-etch, replacement barrel and resin tracks give it a real boost.

Modelspec

Tamiya 1:35 Marder III Ausf. M Sd.Kfz.138 Kit No. 35255

Materials

Aber photo-etched set 35-125 Marder III Ausf.M Vol.1 Basic Set.

Aber 35L-05 German 7.5 cm Gun Barrel with Muzzle Brake for Marder III M Pak 40/3.

WWII Productions - Resin tracks 35-005 for Tamiya Marder III and Marder III Ausf. M.

Tamiya - 35258 Marder III M Brass 7.5 cm Projectiles.

Paints used

Tamiya Acrylics: XF-1 Flat Black, XF-2 Flat White, XF-26 Deep Green, XF-59 Desert Yellow, XF-64 Red Brown.

Tamiya Enamels: XF-1 Flat Black, XF-64 Red Brown Polly Scale Flat. Faber-Castell Pastel Chalks.

References

Panzer Wrecks Nos. 1 and 4.

AFV Super Detail Photo Book Vol. 4 Marder III from Model Art.

Tamiya Model Magazine International Issue 96.

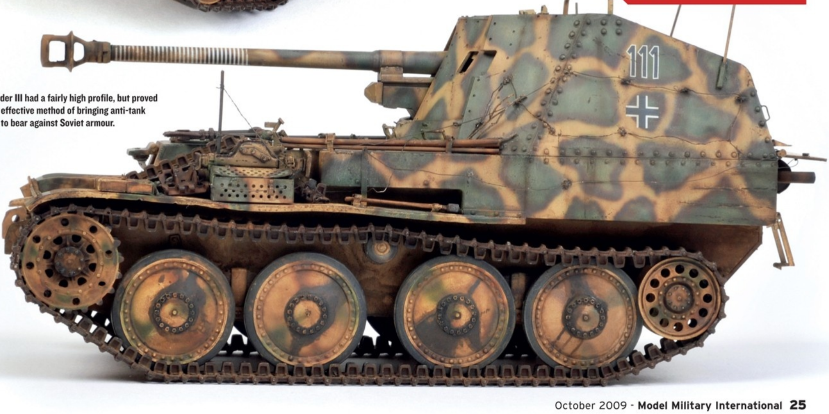
✓ Excellent detail and fit; able to fit out sidewalls before assembly; incredible detail in Aber set.

✗ Attachment of muffler to exhaust pipe could have been designed better; simple kit tracks; lack of tow cable; lack of detail in kit ammo racks; very fiddly assembly of photo-etched set.

Available from

All good model shops Worldwide.

Rating ●●●●●●●●●○



The Marder III had a fairly high profile, but proved to be an effective method of bringing anti-tank artillery to bear against Soviet armour.

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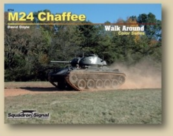
SS5714 - M24 Chaffee Walk Around



The M24 was armed with a 75mm main gun, the Chaffee was able to dispatch many of the foes its predecessors had unsuccessfully faced, and the M24's torsion bar suspension gave it a lower profile and smoother ride while making it an improved gun platform. Produced for the US military until 1950, the Chaffee continued to take the field around the world until well into the 1970s. Packed with over 200 photos, plus colour art and profiles; 80 pages.

SS5713 - Panzer 38(t) Walk Around

Panzer 38(t)/Swiss LTL-H
Hans-Heiri Stapfer
Walk Around
Color Series
Squadron/Signal

The Panzerkampfwagen 38 (tschechisch) Armoured Combat Vehicle 38 (Czech) was one of the most important tanks in the Wehrmacht arsenal in the first half of WWII. Originally produced near Prague as a light tank LT vz. 38 – Lehky Tank vzor 38. Rechristened as the German name Pz.Kpfw.38(t), the vehicle saw action in the Polish and French campaigns and took part in the invasion of the Soviet Union during the summer of 1941. Illustrated with over 300 photographs, color art, and profiles; 80 pages.

SS2044 - Italian Truck-Mounted Artillery in Action

Italian Truck-Mounted Artillery
Ralph Riccio
In Action
Squadron/Signal

Italian military planners saw the need for highly mobile artillery early in the 20th Century. Accordingly, Italy began mounting anti-aircraft weapons on truck chassis prior to WWI, giving birth to the autocannone, a weapon concept which would soldier through both World Wars. Other vehicles, some captured, were mated with a wide variety of weapons, often in the field. Illustrated with over 200 photographs, plus color profiles and detailed line drawings; 52 pages.

SS2043 - HMMWV In Action

HMMWV
David Doyle
In Action
Color Series
Squadron/Signal

The High-Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (Humvee) lives up to its multipurpose use in modern combat. The vehicles are employed to move cargo and personnel, are armed with TOW missiles and smaller arms, and are configured as field ambulances. Armored versions of the vehicle were introduced after Somalia. This book takes a detailed look at HMMWV with more than 100 photographs, color profiles and detailed line drawings; 52 pages.

SS5712 - M3 Medium Tank Lee (Lee & Grant) Walk Around

M3 Medium Tank (Lee & Grant)
David Doyle
Walk Around
Squadron/Signal

The M3 Medium Tank was designed as an answer to European battlefield conditions at the start of WWII. The solution was the M3's unconventional design, which features a 75mm main gun mounted in a sponson on the right, front of the hull. The British dubbed it 'General Grant' and named the US Army version 'General Lee.' This book takes a detailed look at the M3 Tank with more than 200 photographs, color profiles and detailed line drawings. 80 pages.

SS5706 - M26 Pershing Color Walk Around

M26 Pershing
David Doyle
Walk Around
Color Series
Squadron/Signal

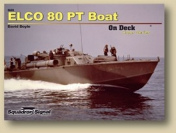
By early 1942, it was apparent that the Sherman tank was no match for its German adversaries. The basic design of the M26 - the designation the T26E3 had been given when it was classified 'standard' in March 1945 - was to form the basis of a long line of excellent tanks (M46, M47, M48 and M60) that would serve US armed forces for 40 years. Illustrated with 250 photographs, color profiles, and detailed line drawings. By David Doyle. 80 pages.

SS2041 - M551 Sheridan Color in Action

M551 Sheridan
In Action No. 2041
By David Doyle
Squadron/Signal

The Sheridan was indeed a unique vehicle that served the US Army over 3 decades. While it was conceived as a light Armored Reconnaissance/Airborne Assault Vehicle that had both amphibious and airborne assault abilities, the casual observer, and most in the military, saw the M551 Sheridan as a tank. Illustrated with 91 color photos, 8 b/w photos, 7 color profiles, 3-view drawing, vehicle development illustrations, and 2 colorized camouflage patterns. By David Doyle. 60 pages.

SS5605 - ELCO 80 PT Boat On Deck



Say "PT Boat" and the image that comes to mind is that of the 80-foot patrol torpedo boat built by the Electric Launch Company (ELCO) in Bayonne, New Jersey. A trio of Packard marine engines, delivering 1200 to 1500 horsepower each, gave the PT Boats speeds of 40 knots. Packed Over 200 photographs, plus color art and profiles; 80 pages.

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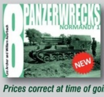

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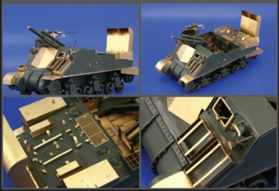

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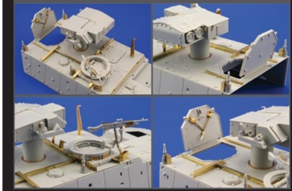

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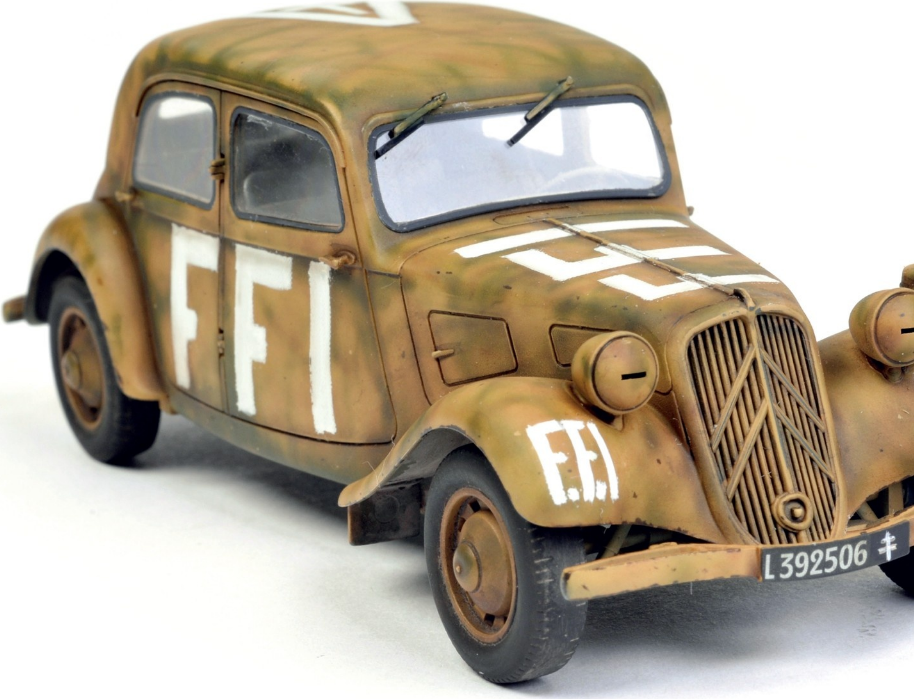
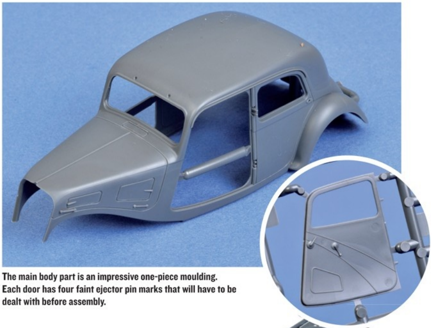
UNDER OLD MANAGEMENT

The Editor crafts a Staff Car with history from Tamiya's brand-new 1:35 scale Citroen 11CV Traction.



CITROËN
TRACTION 11CV
STAFF CAR
1352 RM1
TAMIYA

Tamiya's 1:35 scale Citroen 11CV Traction joins the 1:48 scale version released in 2005



The main body part is an impressive one-piece moulding. Each door has four faint ejector pin marks that will have to be dealt with before assembly.

Citroen launched their revolutionary Traction Avant in 1934. Not only was it a departure from contemporary design with its long, sleek body styling, but it also featured a multitude of technical innovations including front-wheel drive, frameless construction, an overhead valve engine, independent suspension with torsion bars, and the gear shift mounted on the dashboard. The design was good enough to remain in production until 1957.

The Citroen 11CV was employed by the French Army early in the Second World War. When Germany occupied France in 1940, the spoils of war included large numbers of this comfortable and versatile sedan. The Citroen was pressed into service as a staff car with the Wehrmacht and the Luftwaffe until the end of hostilities.

Tamiya released a 1:48 scale Citroen 11CV back in 2005. This was a simple but attractive little kit that was a perfect companion for military or aircraft dioramas.

Ever since 2005, modellers have been hoping to see a scaled-up version. In July 2009, Tamiya released this classic car as a 1:35 scale injection-moulded kit.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

Tamiya's 1:35 scale Citroen Traction 11CV Staff Car is made up from 54 parts in dark grey plastic plus a clear sprue.

The main body is an impressive moulding that includes the bonnet, roof, boot, rear fenders and back doors in a single piece. Although it is not very obvious on the unpainted plastic, there are seam lines running vertically from the rear fenders and horizontally along the top edge of the bonnet. I'll talk more about these later. The bottom of the body is provided as another single piece with basic engine sump and chassis detail moulded in place.

The distinctive grille is offered as a solid part with deep moulding.

Seat cushions are nicely detailed, and the dashboard includes decals for the instruments. The front doors are separate so they may be posed either open or closed. Detail is moulded to the insides of the doors, but there are four faint ejector pin marks to clean up on each. The bonnet and the boot are moulded shut.

Wheel hub and tread detail is good, but the tyres look quite wide for a wartime passenger car.

Clear parts are offered for the windscreen, windows and headlights. Optional blackout covers are also provided for the headlights.

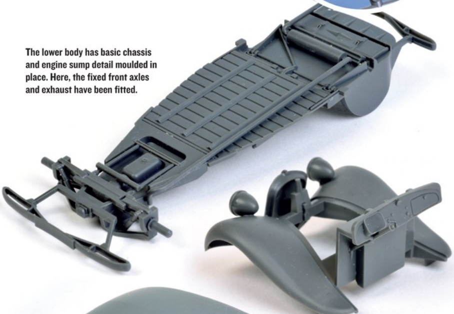
A nicely detailed German driver is included.

Markings are supplied for five vehicles in civilian and military schemes.

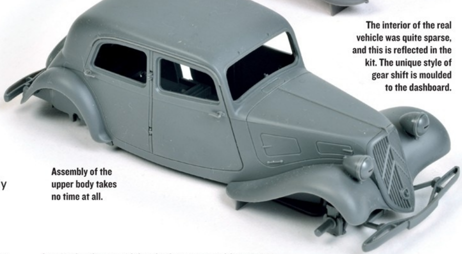
CONSTRUCTION

Frankly, there is not a lot to say about construction. With only 54 parts, the kit fairly flies together. Fit is excellent and the model is a pleasure to build. Prior to assembly the raised moulding seams on the centreline of each tyre were eliminated with a sanding stick, and the faint ejector pin marks on the door were covered with Tamiya Surfacer and lightly sanded.

Options are few and far between due to the simplicity of this kit, but some modellers may wish to cut off the ends of the front axles to reposition the wheels slightly to the left or the right; and perhaps add proper pedals to beef up the three diminutive pips moulded to the floor. A stalk on the side of the steering column would not go astray either. Don't fall into the trap of adding a gearshift to the floor though, as this item was actually located in the middle ▶

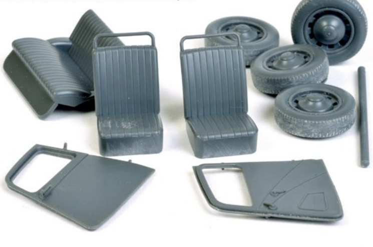


The lower body has basic chassis and engine sump detail moulded in place. Here, the fixed front axles and exhaust have been fitted.

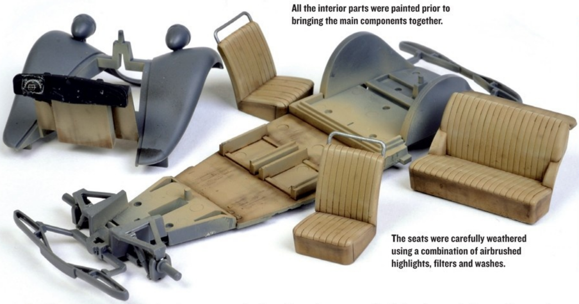


The interior of the real vehicle was quite sparse, and this is reflected in the kit. The unique style of gear shift is moulded to the dashboard.

Assembly of the upper body takes no time at all.



Interior detail parts and the wheels are prepared for painting. A centre seam line was sanded off each of the tyres.



All the interior parts were painted prior to bringing the main components together.

The seats were carefully weathered using a combination of airbrushed highlights, filters and washes.

The dramatic diagonal door panel was picked out with a paler shade of the interior colour.

of the dashboard. Tamiya has depicted this correctly.

I was happy enough to build the kit straight from the box, but there are a couple of things that I would do differently next time. Firstly, there are a two raised moulding seam lines on the top edges of the bonnet and two vertical seams on the rear mudguards. These are not very obvious on the dark grey plastic but they will be amplified under a coat of paint. It will be considerably easier to deal with these before the model is assembled. Please note that the prominent line just behind the bonnet at the base of each A-pillar is supposed to be there – don't sand it off!

> **"With only 54 parts, the kit fairly flies together. Fit is excellent and the model is a pleasure to build."**

The second issue is a space between the top of the lower body and the bottom of the upper body inside the rear wheel well. This results in distracting gaps that can be seen through the clear windows of the finished model reminiscent of the dreaded open sponsons on some of Tamiya's earlier armour kits. Next time I will close these gaps with plastic strip to avoid the see-through effect.

INTERIOR PAINTING

The interior elements were not glued together until they were painted. The Testor Aztek airbrush was used for all painting. The base coat was Tamiya XF-55 Deck Tan, as recommended in the kit instructions. I was sceptical about this colour at first, but it looked pretty good on the parts and improved under weathering. Adding a few drops of white to the paint cup delivered a paler shade that was sprayed selectively across the highest areas of the seats and around their edges. On a whim, as the paint cup was still half-full, I also painted the diagonal swathe on the front door trim in the same ivory shade. The airbrush was now loaded with a thin, grimy mix of Tamiya XF-64 Red Brown and XF-1 Flat Black, which was sprayed into dark shadow areas on the bases of the seats and on the floor to suggest years of heavy foot traffic. The seats, doors and floor were treated to several thin coats of Mig Productions' Tan Filter. Interior weathering might not be the intended role for these Filters, but their subtle build-up works a treat. This was followed by a darker oil wash in selected areas such as the deep join between the cushions and the seat backs. Capillary action drew the very thin dark wash into the recessed surface detail. Random spots of this oil wash were also applied by brush to represent stains on the seats.

Tamiya supplies a decal for the instrument panel, which snuggled down nicely under a coat of Solvaset.

Small details such as the door handles and window winder knobs were picked out with acrylic paints and a fine brush before a final flat coat sealed the interior paint job. Painting the interior took substantially longer than building the entire model!

Before the upper and lower bodies were joined, the inside of the windows were masked and the front doors temporarily tacked shut with Tamiya tape. With this small task complete, the sub-assemblies were glued together with nary a gap to be seen.

EXTERIOR PAINTING

The paint job started with an overall coat of Tamiya XF-63 German Grey. This highlighted the aforementioned seam lines on the bonnet and rear fender, so some time was spent trying to remove them with a sanding stick and fine sandpaper. Next, I mixed up a batch of German Dark Yellow using 40% Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow, 40% XF-60 Dark Yellow and 20% X-2 White. I usually use XF-2 Flat White, but I had temporarily run out and gloss white turned out to be a perfectly acceptable substitute. My wife works in a Pharmacy, so she has access to all sorts of interesting containers including glass jars that I use to store my mixed paints and decanted spray cans.

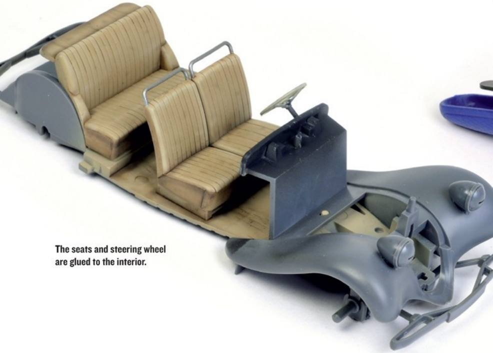
Those recalcitrant seam lines were still visible after my earlier attempts at eradication, so it was back to the drawing board. This time I used the back of a hobby knife blade to first scrape the seam off, followed by progressively finer grades of sandpaper to smooth the surface. The final step was to polish the plastic with Micro Mesh cloths.

The moral here is, "do as I say, not as I do". It will be much easier and quicker to deal with these raised moulding seams before construction commences, and definitely prior to painting!

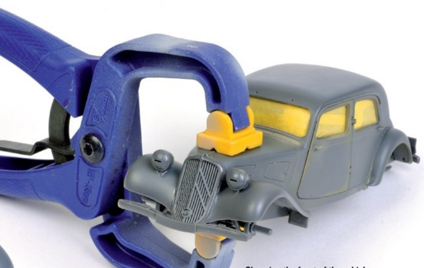
After another couple of fine coats of German Dark Yellow, the disruptive camouflage colours were applied. I started with a 50/50 mix of Tamiya XF-64 Red Brown and XF-60 Dark Yellow, heavily thinned

The interior of the upper body was masked off before gluing this assembly to the lower body.

The doors were temporarily tacked shut with masking tape applied from the inside of the body.



The seats and steering wheel are glued to the interior.



Clamping the front of the vehicle guaranteed a completely gap-free fit between the front fenders and the bonnet.

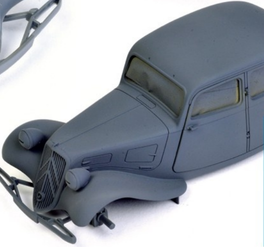
with Isopropyl alcohol. This was sprayed in very light streaks, spots and swirls on the Dark Yellow base. In my opinion, the key to a successful and convincing mottle is to build up the effect slowly. Thinning the paint heavily will help avoid unrealistic spattering and overspray, and don't worry if the finish looks strange or underdone while you are painting. Try to have a mental picture of the effect you want to achieve or, even better, have a reference photo handy while you are painting.

The Dark Green mottling came next, using a 50/50 mix of Tamiya XF-67 NATO Green and XF-59 Dark Yellow, once again heavily thinned. Although much of the camouflage pattern in my sole reference photo was obscured by the large "FFI" lettering, I could see some pretty distinctive streaks on the roof's C-pillar, and a large block of dark camouflage just in front of the rear driver's side mudguard. I made sure that I represented these identifiable patches of camouflage, and I improvised the rest. I was not happy with several areas including the roof and part of the bonnet, so these were partially oversprayed with my Dark Yellow mix and re-camouflaged. It is never too late to rework a paint job.

When I was finally satisfied with the camouflage pattern I applied three thin coats of Mig Productions' Tan Filter for Tritonal Camo. This subtly blends the colours and leaves the hint of a grubby residue in corners and recesses.

Additional weathering consisted of a subtle spray of a red brown / black mix along major structural features, followed by a wash of very thin black acrylic paint into hinge lines and panels.

The Free French markings would have been applied roughly with a wide brush, so there was no need to have perfectly precise markings. However, I was not confident enough to attempt to hand paint the markings directly onto the model so I worked up some artwork for custom-made ALPS decals. After measuring the required size of the markings on the vehicle, I drew the outlines onto a piece of white paper in pencil and completed the markings with a black marker. The characters were drawn intentionally uneven and rough around the edges. These were scanned into my computer at 600 dpi, saved as a Bitmap file and printed at 100% to test-fit for size. I sent the artwork off to a friend with an ALPS printer (a handy sort of friend to have), and carried on with weathering while I waited for the decals to return.



An overall coat of Tamiya XF-63 German Grey reveals the seam lines along the top edges of the bonnet.

The seam lines were smoothed with several MasterCaster sanding sticks.

In the meantime, the model received a few coats of Future floor polish. I confess that I have an uneasy relationship with Future. Most of the time the results are acceptable. On this occasion however, the roof suffered from a very noticeable orange-peel effect. Additional coats of Future did nothing to alleviate the problem so I bit the bullet and sanded off the clear coat with Micro-Mesh cloths. Unfortunately, most of the Red Brown and Green camouflage came off with the Future, so it was back to the airbrush to restore the ▶

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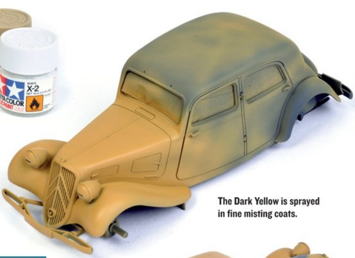
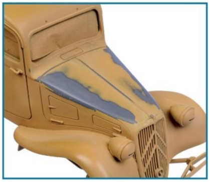
XF-59
XF-60
X-2

The Author's custom mix of German Dark Yellow comprises 40% XF-59 Dark Yellow, 40% XF-60 Dark Yellow and 20% X-2 White. Flat white may also be used.



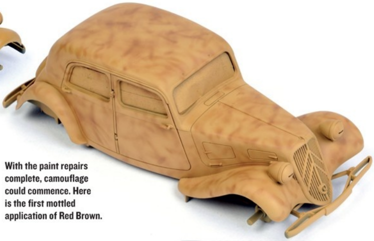
The Dark Yellow is sprayed in fine misting coats.

Three or four misting coats will result in solid coverage.

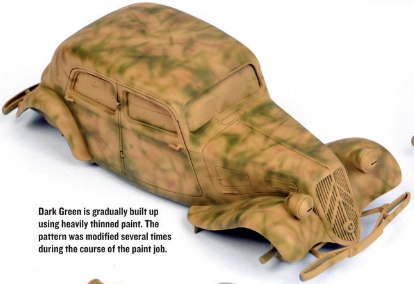


The Author noticed more seam lines on the rear fenders. The front seams were still visible too.

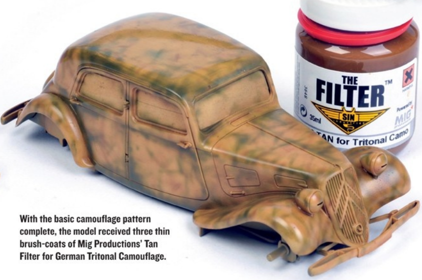
The seams were more vigorously scraped, sanded and polished until they were totally eradicated. It will be much easier to do this prior to construction and painting!



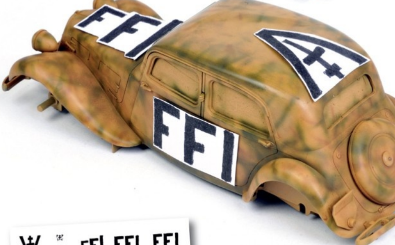
With the paint repairs complete, camouflage could commence. Here is the first mottled application of Red Brown.

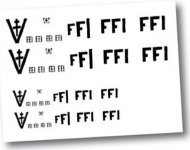


Dark Green is gradually built up using heavily thinned paint. The pattern was modified several times during the course of the paint job.



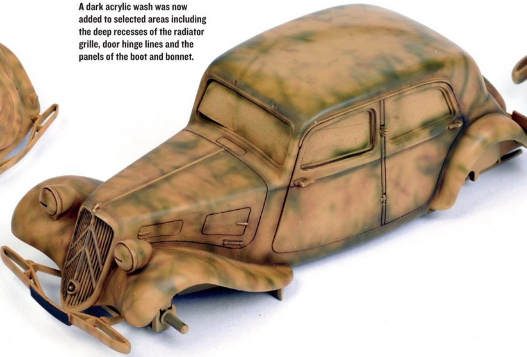
With the basic camouflage pattern complete, the model received three thin brush-coats of Mig Productions' Tan Filter for German Tritonal Camouflage.





Artwork for the unique Free French markings was initially drawn up by hand, then scanned and duplicated to be printed as ALPS decals.
The black artwork was printed and cut out to test for fit.

A dark acrylic wash was now added to selected areas including the deep recesses of the radiator grille, door hinge lines and the panels of the boot and bonnet.



A Notek light was belatedly added to the driver's side mudguard. This was sourced from a Panzer IV kit.

A friend printed the white decals using an ALPS printer. A reference photo was used to help with the original artwork and with the placement of the decals.
The model received several additional coats of Future floor polish, mixed with around 10% isopropyl alcohol, in preparation for the decals.

The decals behaved perfectly, with carrier film almost disappearing.

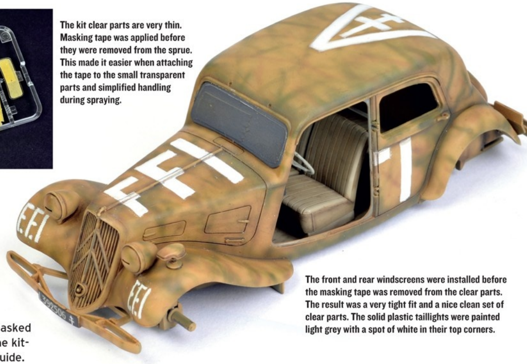
The only problem with the decals was a very prominent dot-screen effect.

> "Nobody could accuse the home-made markings of suffering from computer-generated precision."

All the markings were overpainted with white paint in several thin brushed coats. The overpainting helped reinforce the impression of rough, rushed brush-painted markings seen on the real vehicle.

Two coats of acrylic flat varnish toned down the camouflage and tied in the markings.

Tamiya thoughtfully supplies a masking template for the kit windows and windscreen.



The kit clear parts are very thin. Masking tape was applied before they were removed from the sprue. This made it easier when attaching the tape to the small transparent parts and simplified handling during spraying.

The front and rear windscreens were installed before the masking tape was removed from the clear parts. The result was a very tight fit and a nice clean set of clear parts. The solid plastic taillights were painted light grey with a spot of white in their top corners.

◀ camouflage pattern.

Around this time I also re-examined the reference photo and spotted what seemed to be a Notek light on the driver's side front mudguard. I had not noticed this before but I thought it was an interesting feature, so I raided a Notek from a Dragon Panzer IV kit. This was camouflaged before it was glued into place, then weathered to match the rest of the car.

When the decals arrived I wasted no time applying them. I cut close to the edges of the white markings, and the decals performed perfectly under a coat of Solvaset. The only problem was a very obvious dot-screen pattern on all the markings. My only option was to overpaint all the markings by brush. This was not really such a bad move, as it gave the decals a roughly hand-painted appearance. Vallejo white acrylic paint was used for this job.

The model received a couple of coats of Gunze Flat Clear. I was not happy with the level of sheen that remained, so I added a small blob of Tamiya Flat Base to the paint cup to deliver a dead flat finish.

The clear parts were masked with Tamiya tape using the kit-supplied templates as a guide. Although I have heard comments that the rear windscreen is a poor fit, I did not have a problem. It is certainly tight, and there is definitely a specific technique required to slip the windscreens into place, but a brushed line of Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement on the edges of the window opening helped persuade the clear parts to stay in place. My advice is to test-fit several times before committing to glue.

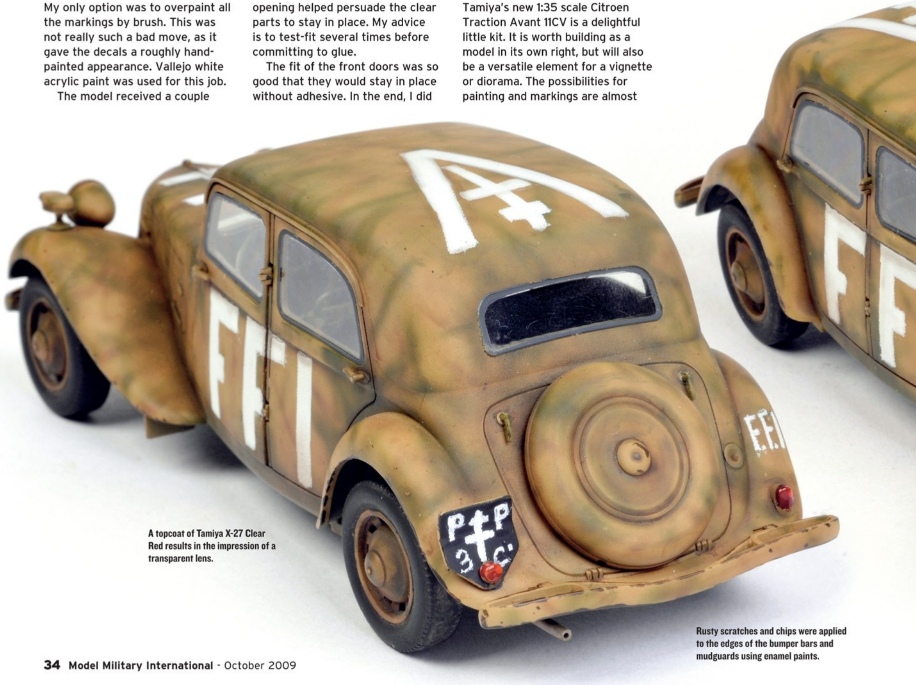
The fit of the front doors was so good that they would stay in place without adhesive. In the end, I did glue the passenger door shut, but I have plans for the driver's side...

Final weathering comprised some "chipping" of paint with a thin mix of Tamiya Red Brown and Black enamel applied with the tip of a fine brush.

CONCLUSION

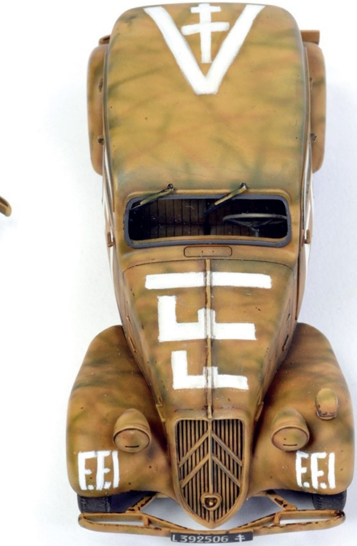
Tamiya's new 1:35 scale Citroen Traction Avant 11CV is a delightful little kit. It is worth building as a model in its own right, but will also be a versatile element for a vignette or diorama. The possibilities for painting and markings are almost endless too, from a civilian scene in mid-1930s Europe, to French or German military service, or even a Saigon Taxi!

Whatever your predilection, I hope you have as much fun building your Tamiya Citroen as I had building mine. ■



A topcoat of Tamiya X-27 Clear Red results in the impression of a transparent lens.

Rusty scratches and chips were applied to the edges of the bumper bars and mudguards using enamel paints.



Modelspec

Tamiya 1:35 Citroen Traction 11CV Staff Car
Kit No 35301

Materials

Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement; Revell Contacta Cement; custom-made ALPS decals; Notek light from Dragon Panzer IV.

Paints used

Tamiya Acrylics - XF-1 Flat Black. X-2 White. XF-2 Flat White. XF-55 Deck Tan. XF-59 Desert Yellow. XF-63 Panzer Grey. XF-64 Red Brown. XF-67 NATO Green.
Tamiya Enamels - XF-Flat Black. XF-64 Red Brown
Vallejo Acrylics - Flat White, Silver.
Mig Productions - Tan Filter for German Tritonal Camo
Mig Productions Pigments.

References

Citroen Traction Avant Gold Portfolio 1934-1957 compiled y R.M. Clarke. Various websites.

✓ Excellent surface detail and texture; very thin and clear transparent parts; simple parts breakdown; fast build; perfect fit; plenty of potential for a wide variety of finishes.

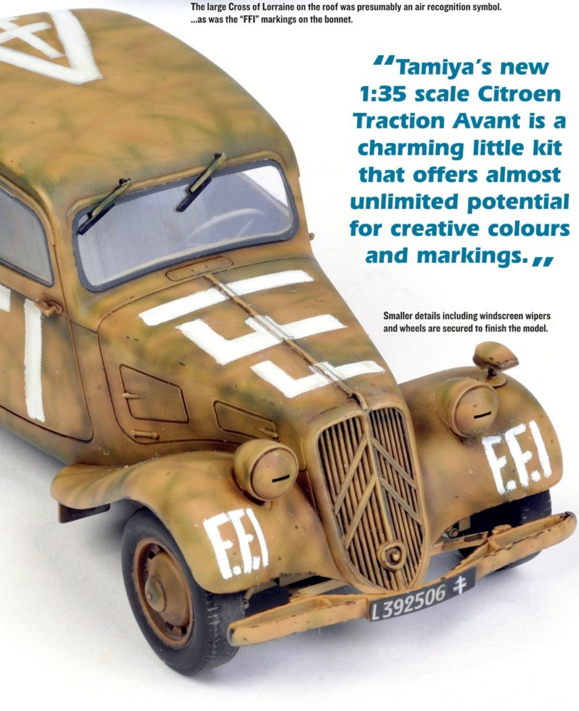
✗ Some seam lines and faint ejector pin marks; gaps between the inside of the rear mudguards and the body.

Available from

All good model shops Worldwide.

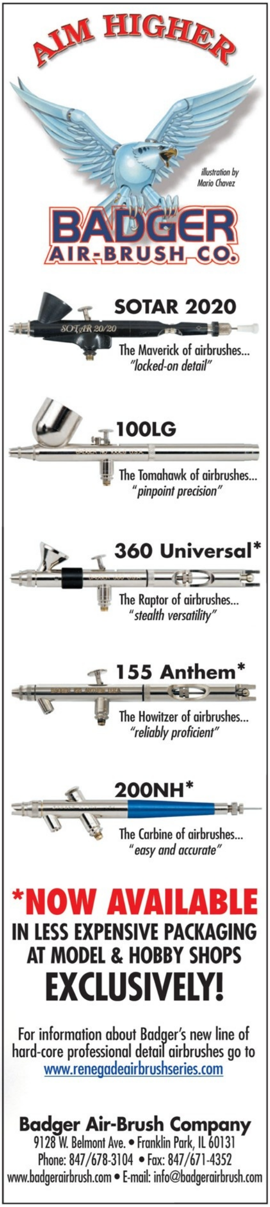
Rating ●●●●●●●◐○○

The large Cross of Lorraine on the roof was presumably an air recognition symbol.
...as was the "FFI" markings on the bonnet.



> **"Tamiya's new 1:35 scale Citroen Traction Avant is a charming little kit that offers almost unlimited potential for creative colours and markings."**

Smaller details including windscreen wipers and wheels are secured to finish the model.



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1:35 '39-'45 SERIES
Quad Gun Trailer M55
Smart Kit
DRAGON

Darren Thompson examines Dragon's new 1:35 scale Quad gun, which include a positionable trailer and gunner figure.

LONG-SERVING QUAD

As you would expect, this 1:35 scale M45D Quad .50 cal gun is lifted straight out of Dragon's recent M16 halftrack kit and mounted upon brand new trailer parts to depict the towed M55 quad trailer variant. This formidable weapon was used by U.S. forces from WWII right through to the Vietnam War, against both aerial and ground targets.

The kit is very finely moulded in the familiar light grey plastic and there are some truly minute details here.

The main receiver part of the cal.50s is beautifully rendered, with separate ammunition feed covers. The barrels are moulded with hollowed muzzles too, but the cooling jacket detail is a little shallow.

The mount is nicely done with excellent tooth detail on the elevation mechanism, as is the gunner's seat assembly. The provided gunner figure is very nicely moulded, but you'll have to add him fairly early on in the construction process to get him into place.

The trailer is simple but accurate, with positionable outriggers allowing you to build it towed or deployed.

Finally, a single etched strip is provided and a full set of stencil decals for the distinctive ammo hoppers.

This is another excellent and versatile little kit from Dragon. ■

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the review sample.

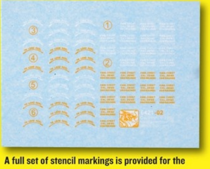
The provided gunner figure will need to be installed early in construction.

The mount is nicely done.

The .50 cals are well done, but the cooling jacket detail is a bit shallow.

The distinctive ammunition hoppers are included.

Trailer wheels feature deep hub and crisp bolt detail.


A full set of stencil markings is provided for the ammo hoppers

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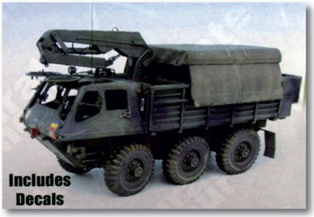
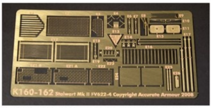



K160-162 Stalwart Mk II FV622-4 Copyright Accurate Armour 2008

Useful details are included on the photo-etched fret.

Decals are offered for a good range of vehicles, all finished in Bronze Green and Black.

FITTERS STALLY

Graeme Carruthers reviews Accurate Armour's new 1:35 scale REME Avis Stalwart.

New from Accurate Armour's Port Glasgow factory are three kits of the British Cold War amphibious Stalwart series. This six wheeled vehicle had numerous roles during its time with the British Army. The kit provided for review kit is the REME version with its large crane mounted behind the cab.

The Stalwart was in service from the mid 1960s to the early 1990s so diorama possibilities for this model are limited only by your references and imagination.

This is truly a multi media kit with the majority of the kit made from Accurate Armour's pale green resin. There is a photo-etched fret that contains some of the smaller fitting, the various wire screens and a large super manufacturers (Alvis) nameplate. A full colour decal sheet, plastic strip, wire, string and a section of clear plastic for the windows finally make up the kits components.

The full colour instructions show photos of the kit in various stages of construction with the parts clearly annotated so you know what to fit, where to fit it and when to fit it. The main body is represented by a large single piece tub to which the chassis and upper body parts are attached to. The tub has some great ribbed detail on the rear bed floor and my example was not only air bubble free but sat flat as it was also warp free. Construction as always begins at the ground up. The wheels can be made to turn if required and the instructions show you how to make sure that all the wheels are turned in the correct fashion. Moving onto the rear bed area the sides have a lovely slatted design to which thin pieces of plastic card are fitted to give the correct 3D appearance.

The cab is a single piece with lovely rivet detail on the outside and lovely pipes and wiring detail on the inside. There are a lot of parts to fit into the cab and this busy interior will look great when painted. There are no templates provided to help you cut the clear plastic to fit into the seven widows so you will have to use the cabs part to make your own templates.

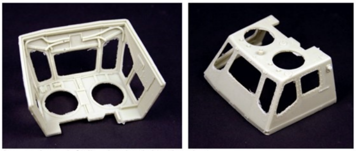
The large crane that sits behind the cab consists of nearly twenty pieces with wire solder provided to represent the hydraulic hoses. The crane is designed to be built in either the folded or extended positions so again the diorama potential of this kit is there for you to see.

The canvas cover for the rear bed is optional and is made up of a top piece and side panels. There is a good texture to the canvas so you can use these parts without fear of spoiling the look of the model.

This is quite an exceptional kit and the colourful markings on the decal sheet will certainly lift up the bronze green or green and black paintwork. Careful reading of the instructions is certainly a must, not because it is a complex kit but because Accurate Armour has provided you with lots of snippets of information along the way telling you how the Stalwart was used and what subtle changes you can do during the construction to represent the vehicle at different times and in different situations. This shows that the model has been well thought out from the beginning with the modeller in mind.

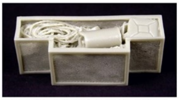
Highly Recommended. ■

Available from
www.accurate-armour.com

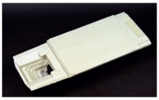


Accurate Armour's Stally cab is detailed inside and out.

The canvas cover features equally convincing texture.



The one-piece mesh stowage bin is a tricky piece of casting



The ribbed texture on the rear bed looks great.

Radio detail is well done.

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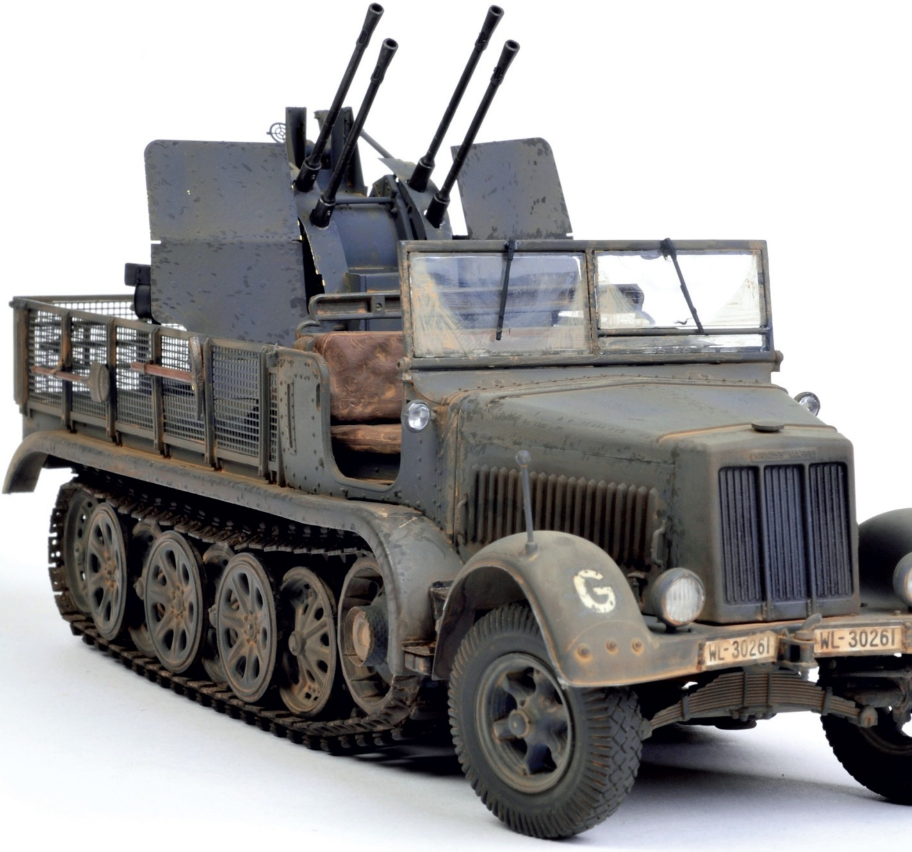
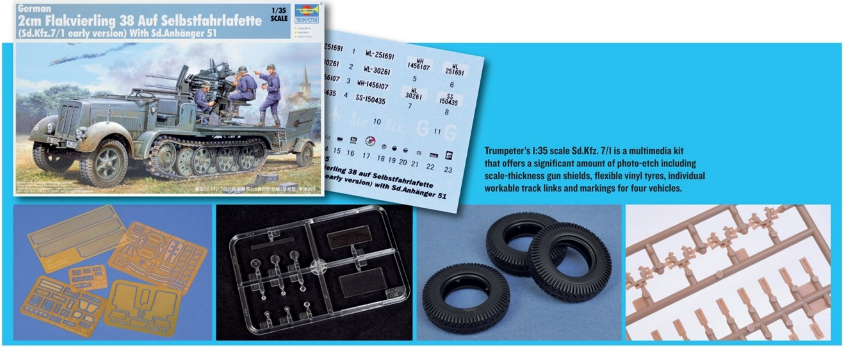
DUCK HUNTING, QUAD STYLE

Andrew Judson rekindles his youth while building Trumpeter's new 1:35 scale Sd.Kfz. 7/1 2cm Flakvierling 38.




German
2cm Flakvierling 38 Auf Selbstfahrlafette
(Sd.Kfz.7/1 early version) With Sd.Anhänger 51
1/35 SCALE
WL-251691
WL-30261
WH-1456107
SS-150435
erling 38 auf Selbstfahrlafette
early version) with Sd.Anhänger 51

Trumpeter's 1:35 scale Sd.Kfz. 7/1 is a multimedia kit that offers a significant amount of photo-etch including scale-thickness gun shields, flexible vinyl tyres, individual workable track links and markings for four vehicles.

I was very excited when I first heard that Trumpeter was going to release a 1:35 scale Sd.Kfz.7/1. This was the very first 1:35 scale kit that I built as a 12-year-old boy when Tamiya's venerable half-track was still fresh.

How times have changed. The comparison between the old Tamiya kit and this new offering from Trumpeter is quite dramatic.

TRUMPETER'S QUAD FLAK HALF-TRACK IN THE BOX

Trumpeter's new 1:35 scale Sd.Kfz.7/1 comprises 531 parts in grey plastic plus seven sprues of individual track links and blocks in industry-standard, "Model Kasten" brown, five sheets of photo-etch (102 parts), three vinyl tyres, decals, a length of rope and wire.

The basic vehicle is the same as the original Trumpeter Sd.Kfz.7 kit with full chassis detail, engine, transmission, winch, suspension, steering and more. The upper rear deck is all-new with cross bracing underneath and authentic texture on the upper surface. The side and rear gates are finished with photo-etched mesh.

The quad Flak gun is a kit in itself. The majority is provided in plastic, though there is a fair amount of photo-etch to add detail. The highlight here is the scale-thickness photo-etched shields.

The windshield glass and headlight lenses are supplied as clear plastic parts.

The ammunition trailer is also included in the kit. Detail has not been forgotten here either, with interior parts and a supply of ammo cans so that you will have the option of opening the trailer for display.

The instruction booklet is made up from 28 pages containing well laid out diagrams. Some areas are very complex and will require care during construction to ensure correct placement.

Markings are provided for four vehicles - two Luftwaffe, one Wehrmacht and one SS. Decals are also supplied for instruments and cabin placards.

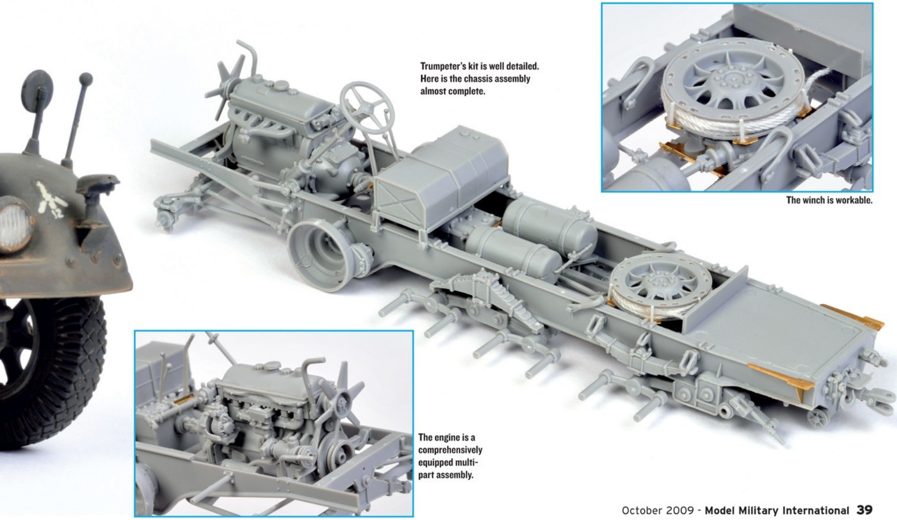
There are a number of concerns, however, with seam lines and moulding plugs being present in some prominent places. There are also problems with certain dimensions, the barrel lengths and the guards.

BUILDING THE KIT - THE CHASSIS

I have to admit this was not the easiest kit to build. Even so, it was a lot of fun and I enjoyed the challenge.

The first stage of the build is constructing the chassis and all areas of the drive train. A lot of care is absolutely essential to ensure that parts are aligned and in their exact location, otherwise you will have problems in the next stage of construction.

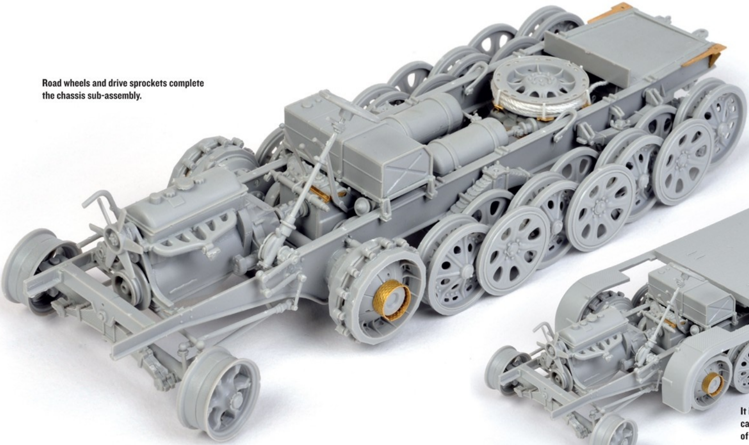
The chassis has the largest number of parts in the entire kit. I finished mine in sub-assemblies to ensure a good fit before gluing all the components together. These individual assemblies were the main chassis, the engine, the gearbox, and the winch. During construction, there were many ▶



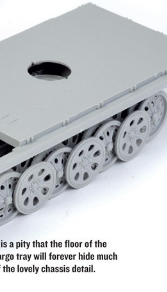
Trumpeter's kit is well detailed. Here is the chassis assembly almost complete.

The winch is workable.

The engine is a comprehensively equipped multi-part assembly.



Road wheels and drive sprockets complete the chassis sub-assembly.



It is a pity that the floor of the cargo tray will forever hide much of the lovely chassis detail.

> **"The quad Flak gun is a kit in itself. The majority is provided in plastic, though there is a fair amount of photo-etch to add detail. The highlight here is the scale-thickness photo-etched shields."**

◀ photo-etched parts to install. I used the excellent product, Gator Glue, to secure photo-etched parts in place, as this acrylic adhesive allows plenty of time to move the part around until it is in its exact location. Gator Glue is slow to cure, but surprisingly strong when set.

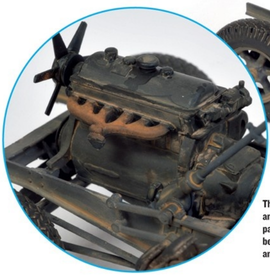
I added all of the suspension and steering components plus the road wheels after the main chassis was assembled.

I now decided to spray the completed chassis in German Panzer Grey. Tamiya XF-63 was used for this task. Detail areas such as the engine were painted by brush in black. The gearbox received a coat of dark green.

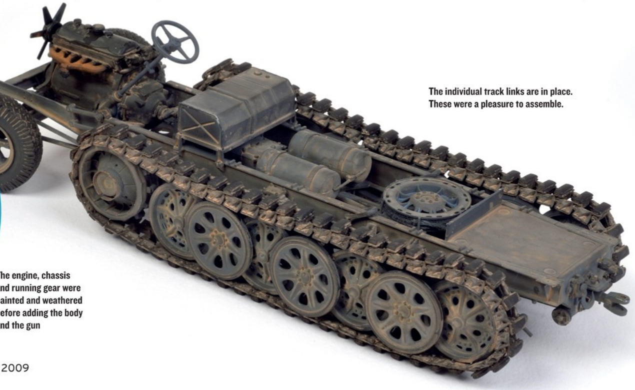
I wanted my vehicle to look very dusty and grimy, so next I applied a liberal coat of Mig Filter for Tri-Tonal schemes and left this to dry. The end result was a grey but very dusty looking chassis, with a nice build up of dirt in the recessed areas. The engine and gearbox received the same treatment followed by some dark washes to suggest a greasy look as well. Lastly, I made up a dirt mix of Mig Pigments' European Dust, Rubble and a touch of Sand. This wet slurry was brushed over everything, then dried with a hair drier. At this stage it looked very over the top. Much of the dried pigment was removed with a large flat brush, blending and feathering it into areas. This resulted in a good dusting without completely obscuring the grey base coat.

Happy with the appearance of the chassis, I then put the separate track links together. They were easy to assemble and also looked great after approximately two hours work. Believe me, the time and effort is worth it. The tracks were now sprayed with a mixture of Tamiya Red Brown and Flat Black at a ratio of 50/50, which offers a good base colour to work from. They were next coated in the same mix of Mig Pigments used for the chassis, followed by a brisk brushing and a dry-brush of Flat Black over the track pads to give the impression of wear on contact surfaces. The tracks were then placed onto the running gear, although I did have difficulty getting them snugly onto the drive sprockets. Care is needed in this area.

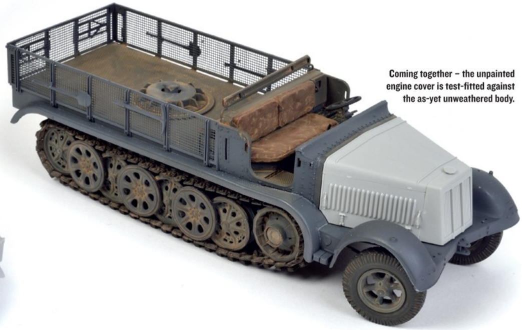
Once the tracks were in place I did some final washes and dusting of the existing pigments. The result was a very nice, detailed looking chassis. Indeed, I thought it would be a shame when all of that excellent detail was inevitably hidden under the half-track's body.



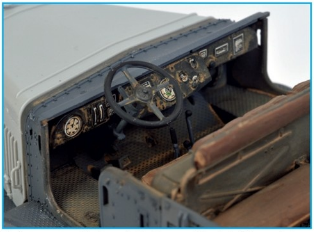
The engine, chassis and running gear were painted and weathered before adding the body and the gun



The individual track links are in place. These were a pleasure to assemble.



Coming together – the unpainted engine cover is test-fitted against the as-yet unweathered body.



The instruments are decals supplied by Trumpeter. They do the job very nicely.

UPPER BODY

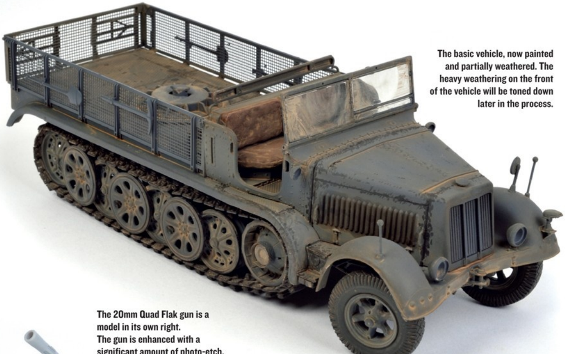
It is essential to take care when assembling the body in general and the rear deck in particular, even though there are not as many parts as the chassis. All the cross members and mounting points can be tricky, so pay attention. If these are not correctly installed, you will be in trouble when mating with the lower chassis. The rear and side gates can be built two ways, either raised for transport as I have chosen, or lowered for operational purposes. The photo-etched mesh for the side gates is very nicely done, and fits accurately into position.

Once the upper deck was completed, I painted and weathered the under section and then glued it in place. The same was done with the front wheel guards. I made sure that these were precisely located, otherwise the front end would not align properly.

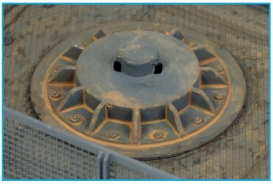
Next I assembled the engine firewall and the cabin floor and bench seat. All went together well, however this is where I encountered my first problem due to what I would call an error in the layout and sequence in the instructions.

When building the chassis, Step One is the construction of the gearbox. The instructions tell you to glue all the levers in position. However, if you do this (as I did), you won't be able to install the floor. I had to remove the levers, put the firewall and floor into position and then re-glue the levers in place through the holes in the floor. This was not a particularly big deal, however it could have been avoided with more accurate instructions.

Now that the floor and firewall were in place, I could finish off the engine. All the photo-etched steps were bent into shape and glued in position. The dashboard was also assembled, including the great looking instrument decals, 12 in total. The next step involved finishing off the front end and, sadly, covering up the wonderful engine (sigh). I also painted and put ▶

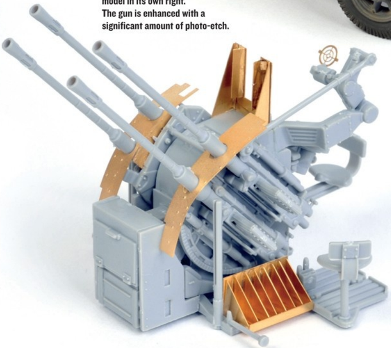


The basic vehicle, now painted and partially weathered. The heavy weathering on the front of the vehicle will be toned down later in the process.

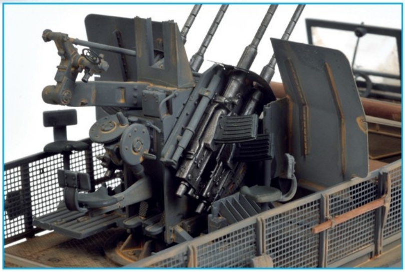


The tray will be largely hidden by the Flak gun, but the floor was still carefully painted and weathered.

The 20mm Quad Flak gun is a model in its own right.
The gun is enhanced with a significant amount of photo-etch.



Here, the gun is painted and in place in the rear of the half-track. The gun shields are large photo-etched parts.



◀ on the exhaust system underneath, and was blessed with a perfect fit.

With the construction of the upper half completed, I used all the same colours and weathering techniques employed earlier, only working a little harder on the rear fighting deck to give it a heavily used appearance. Things were really starting to look nice now.

THE QUAD 20MM

The gun was fun to build although there are a lot of photo-etched parts to bend and glue together, so it is a lengthy build considering its relatively compact size. All went together well despite more examples of poor instruction numbering and misleading drawings. When assembling the big, impressive photo-etched gun shields, the instructions seemed to indicate everything the wrong way around and back the front. Take care during this stage and make sure you test-fit the parts frequently.

Once the Flak gun assembly was complete I painted the remaining parts. Light weathering was applied before adding the shields. If you are finishing the kit in transport mode, as I did, don't glue the shields in place until you have installed the gun on the rear deck otherwise the gun assembly won't lock into place. There is no room for movement with the gun shields installed and the side gates glued shut. I found this out to my chagrin, and had to remove the shields to install the gun. It is a very tight fit. Once the gun was back together, I began to do add weathering, paint chips and scrapes plus a little more dusting and in some areas, toning down where I had gone too heavily before.

Wow, this kit looks great, but then I realised in my excitement and rush to finish I hadn't put on the decals!

Trumpeter's decals were used, with a brush coat Gunze Mark Softer to help them conform to the curves followed by a little touching up to the surrounding weathering.

CONCLUSION

Trumpeter's 1:35 scale Sd.Kfz. 7/1 is a very detailed kit. Even though there were a couple of fit issues and some errors in the instructions, it was still a joy to build.

When you look at the end result you have to admit, minor accuracy issues aside, this is miles ahead compared to previously available kits even straight from the box as I built mine. Imagine what super detailing could achieve.

The fact that we now have the choice of a second brand-new Sd.Kfz. 7/1 Flakvierling from Dragon just goes to show how vibrant our hobby is today.

Keep 'em coming Trumpeter. ■

Modelspec

Trumpeter German 2cm Flakvierling 38 Auf Selbstfahrlafette (Sd.Kfz.7/1 early version) with Sd.Anhanger 51 **Kit No. 01523**

Paints used

Tamiya Acrylics: XF-63 German Grey; XF-1 Flat Black

Weathering materials

Mig Productions: Mig Filter for Tri-Tonal schemes; Mig Pigments - European Dust, Rubble, Sand.

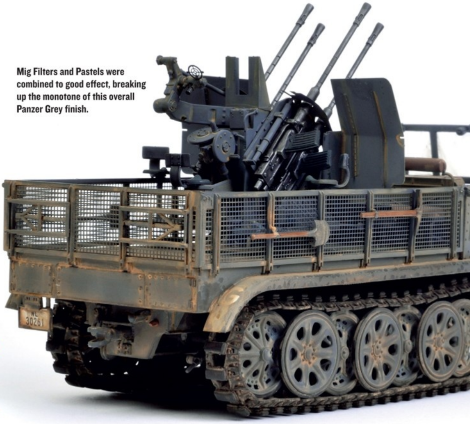
✓ High level of detail; useful photo-etched enhancements; individual track links; generally good fit; captures the look of the vehicle.

✗ Some detail accuracy concerns; incorrect assembly sequences in instructions; seam lines and moulding plugs need cleanup prior to assembly.

Available from

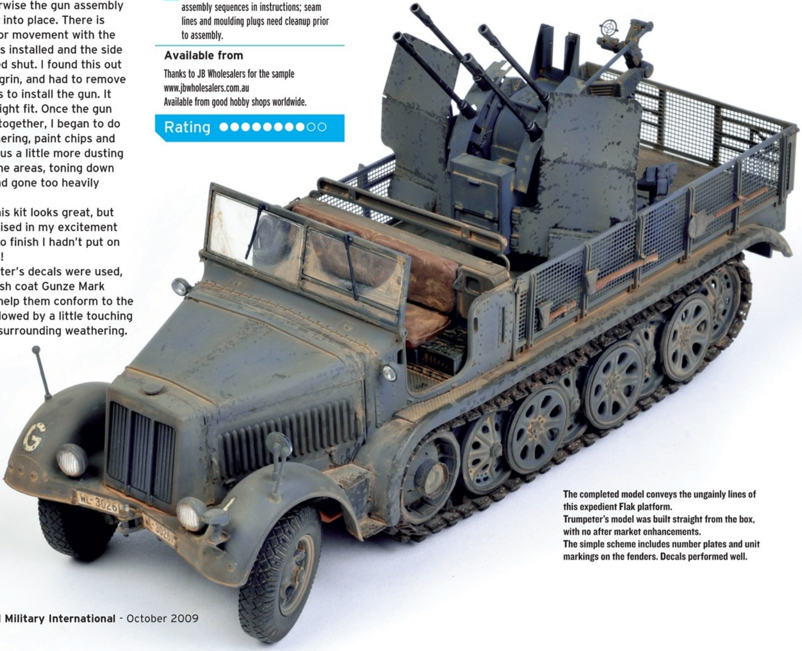
Thanks to JB Wholesalers for the sample
www.jbwholesalers.com.au
Available from good hobby shops worldwide.

Rating ●●●●●●●●○○



Mig Filters and Pastels were combined to good effect, breaking up the monotone of this overall Panzer Grey finish.

> **"I have to admit this was not the easiest kit to build. Even so, it was a lot of fun and I enjoyed the challenge."**



The completed model conveys the ungainly lines of this expedient Flak platform.
Trumpeter's model was built straight from the box, with no after market enhancements.
The simple scheme includes number plates and unit markings on the fenders. Decals performed well.

Diary Dates

To have your event included on this page, send your details to:
Diary Dates, ADH Publishing, Doolittle Mill, Doolittle Lane,
Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, UK
Tel:01525 222573·Fax:01525 222574·Email:editor@modelmilitary.com

From September 3rd
The Imperial War Museum, Duxford, commemorates the 70th anniversary of the oubreak of the Second World War with an evocative new photographic exhibition entitled Duxford Goes to War.
The exhibition runs from Thursday 3 September (the actual anniversary of the announcement of the outbreak of the Second World War) to winter 2009 in AirSpace at Imperial War Museum Duxford.

September 19th
Modelfest 2009 will be held on Saturday 19th September 2009, from 10:00 to 16:00.
There will be a wide variety of club and trade stands, tombola and refreshments.
The venue is the same as last year (Kings International College, Watchetts Drive, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2PQ).
Admission will be £3.00 adult, concessions £1.50, accompanied children free.
www.ipms-farnborough.co.uk

September 19th-20th
E-DAY 2009
The largest Czech modelfest, E-Day 2009, will be held on the weekend of 19 and 20 September 2009, so now is the best time to add it to your schedule.
The all weekend event, under Eduard's sponsorship, is not only an exhibition and competition, but also a great opportunity to visit the beautiful city of Prague, the heart of the Czech Republic.
The Czech IPMS National Convention 2009 is a part of the E-Day.
Check for more details at www.eday.cz

October 3rd-4th
IPMS Belgium 2009 National Convention is scheduled for October 3 & 4 in the Oktoberhallen of Wieze (from 10 AM) : open contest, exhibition, club & trade stands, make & take for kids. Full details and registration at http://ipms.be/NC2009/NatCon2009Page.htm or write to IPMS Belgium, Esdoornlaan 33, B-1850 Grimbergen.

October 3rd
North Surrey Military Modelling Group are holding their annual show and open competition at the Thomas Wall Centre, Benhill Avenue, Sutton, SM1 4DP. Doors open at 10am and there will be the usual wide range of traders and club stands. Enquiries to David Grummitt, tel. 07879 605322 or davidgrummitt942@hotmail.com

October 18th
Scale Model Challenge 2009.
Dutch modeling club, the "Scale Model Factory" are holding their annual scale modelling frenzy: Scale Model Challenge 2009 On 18 October 2009. This show is focuses on armour and figures, and this year's edition has been expanded with table top demonstrations and wargame trade stands. Admission is free.
Information about all of the above is available on the SMF website: www.scalemodelfactory.nl
Venue: De Eindhovense School, Von Flotowlaan 1, 5653 AD Eindhoven, The Netherlands.
SMF can be reached by e-mail at info@scalemodelfactory.nl

October 21st-25th
The IPMS-Hellas Annual Expo - Competition will take place at the Apollo Multi-center in Piraeus (see the map here: http://www.nomarhiapeiraia.gr/Templates/polihoros/7.htm)
The competition will be held in one hall and this year there shall be a separate hall for the trade stands.
For more information please visit: http://www.ipms-hellas.gr/index_UK.htm
Or contact us at this e-mail: ipms-hellas@windowslive.com

October 24th
The North West Plastic Kit Swap 2009.
Avrolancs IPMS Model Club will host a kit swap on Saturday 24 October 2009 at the Canberra Sports and Social Club, Samlesbury, Preston, Lancashire, BB2 7LF.
Tables now available.
Book in advance to avoid disappointment. If you are looking to turn your unwanted kits into cash, or are on the lookout for a bargain, come and join us.
For more information please email us at nwkitswap@google.com or phone Dave on 01772-468296 (evenings).

October 24th
Help For Heroes Model Show.
On Saturday 24th October 2009 between 10 am and 4 pm Bognor Military Modelling and War Gaming Society will be holding their annual open day. The club operates every Monday night between 7:30 pm and 10:00 pm at West Meads Community Hall Bognor Regis. The club has approximately thirty members all having an interest in military history. On display will be members completed work and works in progress, the war gaming members will have a game in progress for visitors to join in if they wish. Also on display we normally have some military memorabilia that members have collected. A tombola with donated prizes to tempt visitors and refreshments will be available during the day. The Open Day will take place at West Meads Community Hall, The Precinct, West Meads, Bognor Regis, PO21 5SB. 10AM to 4PM Saturday 24th October 2009. Admission by Donation to Help For Heroes.
Each year a charity is chosen and this year it will be Help For Heroes, money generated from the Open Day will go forward to Help for Heroes to transform the lives of wounded service personnel.

November 7th
SQUADRON 2009.
The Australian Plastic Modellers Association will be hosting "Squadron" on Saturday Nov 7 at the Hornsby RSL Memorial Hall (not the Hornsby RSL but the hall 2 doors up). The venue is almost 2.5 times larger than our previous venue & looks a lot brighter.
Squadron is the sister (or brother) show to Battalion.
Squadron is the show for ships, aircraft & Sci/fi / Real Space Vehicles.

November 7th
IPMS Mid-Tennessee Model Contest and Show.
IPMS Mid-Tennessee will be holding their Model Contest and Show on Saturday November 7 2009 at the Rutherford County Agricultural Center, 315 John Rice Blvd., Murfreesboro TN 37129. For additional information please contact: nhenryjr@bellsouth.net or a330driver@bellsouth.net

March 6th
The Greater Peterborough Model Show 2010 to be held on Saturday March 6th 2010 again in the town hall Peterborough. Once again proceeds from the show will go to the Mayors charities as in previous years.

Revell
Revell

Letters

WRITE TO: MMI Letters, ADH Publishing, Doolittle Mill, Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe,
Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, UK
Tel: 01525 222573 Fax: 01525 222574 Email: editor@modelmilitary.com
The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher.
Letters may be edited for publication.

AFV CLUB AVRE

May I make a slight correction to the review article for the above kit in Issue 40 of Military Modelling International. The Spigot mortar could in fact be loaded from within the vehicle, as the hatch over the machine gun operators position was changed to a sliding cover. This enabled the gunner to push a new round up into the tube from relative safety, after the gun had been fired. I am uncertain as to whether or not the mortar barrel would 'break' automatically after firing, or if this needed to be done manually. I am sure someone out there knows.
MMI continues to be an excellent publication, carry on the good work.

Regards,
Mike Prorok
(79th A.D. fan)

Ed says: Hi Mike, Thanks very much for the clarification.

THE CHOPPER

Firstly thank you for a great Magazine which I have been loyal since your first issue.
I would like to take this opportunity to ask about the tool "THE CHOPPER", which is being used for this article on the Matilda and would like to know where I could get hold of one here in the U.K. Or will this be revealed in your next instalment on this great model in your next Issue.
I have been away from the bench as it where for some time now but have thrown myself back in to this great hobby with the blessing of my future wife.
Perhaps an article on available tools might be handy for future reference.

Kind regards
Paul Humphries U.K

THE CHOPPER
THE CHOPPER

Ed says: Hi Paul, The Chopper is certainly a very handy tool. You might try your local model railway shop, as it seems to be more frequently employed on that side of the hobby. You can also find it online from the manufacturer, NSWL, at this website address www.nwsl.com

It is also worth noting that there is a new version of The Chopper called, rather unimaginatively, The Chopper II. This updated product features a steel surround and self-healing mat as the base. I will be taking a more detailed look at both The Chopper and The Chopper II, along with other tools, in a forthcoming series due to commence later this year.

HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS

Hi there. I just wanted to alert you to a cause for concern. I noticed in your August edition (no pun intended) a concern with one of your articles - on page 16 you feature two photos where it appears that you are cutting TOWARDS yourself with a razor saw and a Dremel power tool - not a good idea! This may just be for photographic purposes, which I can appreciate, but could you issue a caution in future regarding this.
Nevertheless, a great publication all the same.

Regards - Nick
London, UK

Ed says: Hi Nick, Thank you for making this important point. Yes, guilty as charged, I was not following the common-sense safety rules when using these sort of tools – always cut away from yourself. I will try to set a better example in future!

"HOW TO" ARTICLES

I am trying to return to AFV modeling after 30 years away from it. However, a lot has moved on in the past 30 years and I obviously need to learn a whole new set of techniques that simply did not exist thirty years ago! I have been buying your magazine for the past eighteen months or so and I find the "How to articles" that include advice on techniques excellent. I decided to start looking at getting back issues to learn more about today's modeling techniques.
However, in looking at your back issues page on-line it is not easy to figure out what issues or articles might cover what techniques and therefore be worth buying.
The back issues page is great, if you want to locate an article on a particular kit, or articles on a particular vehicle, but not so good at identifying articles that include help on techniques. It would be unfair to say that there is no mention of articles on techniques, but there are many useful articles that I have seen over the past eighteen months that don't really get flagged up in your listings. An example would be the excellent article in issue 37 entitled "Stalking Giant" which is full of tips on techniques, especially on the various painting stages. The entry in the back-issues list simply says "Brett Green builds Tamiya's all new Jagdtiger". Truthful, but hardly helpful to someone like me! Would it be possible for someone at MMI to expand the contents summary to be somewhat more descriptive for each issue on the back issues page, saying something about what techniques were covered in the article. e.g. making groundwork or use of Mig powders or painting faces/uniforms or weathering etc. I am sure that many of your "makee learnee" readers like myself would find this very useful. I can't be the only one! You never know, it might also drive up your sales of back issues!
I can't afford to buy all the back copies, but have just ordered a half dozen or so that obviously have articles that would benefit me.
From time to time there is mention in MMI of a particular article in a particular issue that covers an important technique and I have ordered a couple of these, including No 1, which apparently covers making resin kits. Something that didn't really exist forty years ago when I started making AFV's!

Regards,
David Riley

***Ed says: Hi David, What you are asking for certainly makes sense. Back issues represent a valuable resource for different tips and techniques. It would be nice to be able to cross-reference the entire back catalogue against the exact techniques used in each article. In practice though, building this list would be a time consuming process, but we will give some thought about how we might go about it.
Thanks for the suggestion.***

THE FIRST TEST

As I watch the opening overs of the first Ashes Cricket Test at Cardiff I am slowly build a MARDER III in 1:35 scale. After 30 plus years of not seeing a build, I must say that I am blown away by the detail.
Any new builder must in my opinion:
1. subscribe to your excellent magazine,
2. buy a good quality airbrush/ compressor,
3. purchase a photo-etch folding tool.
Without these you have as much chance of producing a good model as England has of winning the TEST.

All the best,
Steve
South Australia

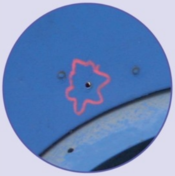
***Ed says: Hi Steve, Well, as an Australian Editor of an International magazine published in the UK, I had better keep my cricket opinions to myself, but England seems to be acquitting itself pretty well so far. We will know the result of the series by the time this issue hits the streets, but it has been a compelling contest to date.
As to your three modelling suggestions, I am happy to agree with them all!
You might get some hints and tips or at least inspiration from Chris Wauchop's stunning Tamiya Marder III on page 20 of this Issue of MMI.***

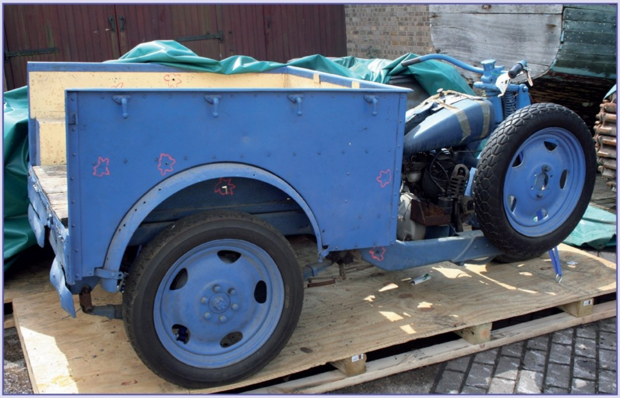
RANDOM REFERENCE!

HOLLYWOOD TRIKE

Brian Balkwill shows us a WWII Mazda Trike with a celebrity pedegree

The Wheatcroft collection recently acquired two WWII Mazda trikes. These were picked up after the war by Bud Ekins who sold them to his friend Steve McQueen. The trikes were purchased from McQueen's collection. The areas marked with jagged stars are wartime bullet holes.





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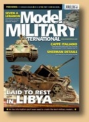
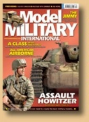


Issue 19

- Academy small scale Dragon Wagon
- Academy IMagach 7A Conversion
- Dragon 1:35 M1A2 SEP Abrams
- M4A2 76mm resin conversion
- 1:15 Panther Ausf A
- Cyber Hobby T-34/76 STZ
- Lion Roar M2 mega-etched brass detail set
- Sherman reference photos

» and more...



Issue 20

- Dragon Kingtiger with zimmerit
- AFV Club 1:48 late Tiger I diorama
- Italeri MH-60K Blackhawk
- Dragon 10.5cm armed Stug III
- Step by step guide - Tamiya 1:48 GMC
- GMC reference photos
- Italeri 1:48 Chinook
- Iwata TR-1 airbrush
- S&T 120mm US Para

» and more...

Issue 21

- Dragon Panzer II Ausf.F
- Dragon Panzer II Ausf.A
- Cromwell Nagmachon conversion
- Tamiya Hetzer
- Tamiya M8 HMC
- Tamiya Leopard 2A6
- Academy M7 'Priest' HMC
- Italeri Bofors Gun
- Trumpeter Stryker

» and more...

Issue 22

- Italeri's 1:48 RAF Chinook HC.1
- Italeri's LVT-4
- Tamiya's JS-2
- 40mm Bofors Gun Reference
- 1:35 figure of Tiger Ace Michael Wittmann
- Resicast's AOP Bren Carrier conversion
- Dragon's sFH18 Field Howitzer
- Tamiya's 1:48 Sd.Kfz. 250/3 'Greif' half-track
- Bronco's Staghound armoured car

» and more...

Issue 23

- Part 2 detailing a 1:16 King Tiger
- Painting a Michael Wittmann figure
- Italeri' 1:48 RAF Chinook
- Putting an LVT-4 into a watery diorama
- Bofors Gun refernce photos
- Resicast AOP Bren Carrier
- Dragon 1:6 Kettenkrad
- Tamiya 1:35 JS-2

» and more...

Issue 24

- Academy M3 Grant
- Dragon's Initial Tiger I
- Nuremberg Toy Fair Report
- Italeri' MH-60K
- Tamiya Hetzer Diorama
- Dragon M4 half track mortar carrier
- ICM Studebaker
- Dragon Grasshopper
- Dragon Porsche King Tiger

» and more...

Issue 25

- MiniArt 1:35 SU-76
- Azimut 1:35 Morris truck mounted Bofors anti aircraft gun
- Trumpeter 1:144 U.S. Navy LCAC
- Trumpeter 1:35 E-25
- Dragon 1:35 UH-1 Huey
- Dragon 1:35 Jagdpanther (early version)
- Trumpeter SAM-6 Afghan diorama
- Fujimi 1:144 Dora Rail Gun

» and more...

Issue 26

- Academy's legendary M113
- Dragon Firefly
- AFV Club's Sturmtiger
- IMA's Churchill Bridgelayer conversion
- Dragon's Panther Aust.G Smart Kit
- Dragon's DX'07 Late Tiger I
- Dragon's 2nd Expo release of George Bose's early StuG.III G
- Trumpeter's Geschützwagen Tiger

» and more...

Issue 27

- Dragon Panzer IV F1
- Dragon zimmerit coated King Tiger
- Tamiya Challenger
- Trumpeter 1:35 Recovery version of the USMC LAV
- Italeri latest DUKW
- Plus Models Morris Breakdown truck
- step by step guide to the painting and weathering techniques

» and more...

Issue 28

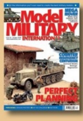
- AFV Club' Israeli 'Shot Kal' Centurion
- Dragon 38(t) Ausf.G
- Accurate Armour kits and conversions
- Tamiya JS-2
- Revell 1:35 UNIMOG
- Tamiya's cast hull Sherman
- TechGuide - Building crates and boxes
- Record Models 1:16 resin KV-2

» and more...

Issue 29

- MiniArt T-80
- D-Day diorama
- Tristar Early Brummbär
- Lion Roar detail sets
- Trumpeter 1:16 T- 34/85 diorama
- Trumpeter E10 'Paper Panzer'
- MAFVA Nationals at the IWM Duxford
- Tamiya 1:48 M20 scout car

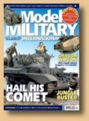
» and more...



Issue 30

- Tasca's M4A1
- AFV Club Cent - IDF Nagmachon conversion
- Dragon zimmerit coated Panther D
- Diorama techniques
- Dragon small scale releases
- Trumpeter's E10 - Part 2
- War & Peace Show report
- SKP A30 Challenger

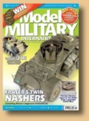
» and more...



Issue 31

- Dragon's Braille scale AAVPA1
- Bronco's Comet cruiser tank
- Trumpeter's Air Defence LAV
- Trumpeter's PT-76
- IPMS Portugal Exposition report
- Tamiya Opel Blitz
- Jordi Rubio's Kf.13 Adler
- M48A3 'Patton' reference

» and more...



Issue 32

- Free Tankfest'08 supplement Pt.1
- Cromwell Models FV432/2 APC
- Bronco's Land Wasser Schlepper Pt.1
- Dragon's zimmerit coated panzer
- Bronco's Staghound conversion
- Dragon Dicker Max
- Overloon museum report
- Dragon 1:6 Kübelwagen
- FV430 Mk3 Bulldog reference

» and more...

Issue 33

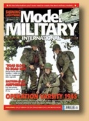
- Free Tankfest'08 supplement Pt.2
- P-47 Thunderbolt diorama
- West Cornwall model show report
- Revell M48A2G conversion
- Dragon Sturmhaubitze 42 Ausf. G
- Bronco's Land-Wasser-Schlepper Pt.2
- Resicast T16 carrier and 6 pounder anti-tank gun
- Budget airbrushes comparison

» and more...

Issue 34

- Italeri' 1:35 Schnellboot S-100 Ptl
- Resicast Rolls-Royce armoured car
- AFV Club Churchill Mk.III
- Dragon Jagdpanther
- Scale Model Factory show report
- Tasca Direct Vision Sherman II
- Tamiya 1:35 Jagdtiger
- IDF BTR-40 reference

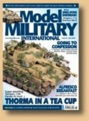
» and more...



Issue 35

- Dragon Airborne figure set Dio
- Tamiya 1:48 KV-2
- Tamiya re-released Italian M13/40 and M40
- Legend Productions Merkava Mk.III Baz
- HobbyBoss V100 armoured cars
- Italeri S-100 Schnellboot
- Cromwell Models 1:35 Cougar and Haulers 1:48 Krupp Truck
- Academy' MH-53E Sea Dragon

» and more...



Issue 36

- Dragon El Alamein Sherman
- Nuremberg Toyfair Report
- Tamiya 1:48 Panzer IV Ausf. J.
- Dragon 1:72 Sherman Mk.III
- Miniart ZIS-2 57mm anti tank w/crew
- Monroe Perdu church front dio
- Italeri 1:35 Staghound AA
- Voyager detailing sets
- Vietnam era PBR river patrol boat ref

» and more...

Issue 37

- Accurate Armour series III Land Rover
- Tamiya Chieftain Mk.5 - Mk.10 Conversion
- Tamiya 1:48 Austin Tilly
- Panther/Panzer IV Hybrid conversion
- Tamiya Jagdtiger
- Italeri Crusader Mk. I
- Tamiya 1:48 Marder III
- 1:35 HobbyBoss AAVP-7A1
- Leopard 2A6M reference

» and more...

Issue 38

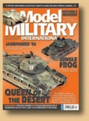
- Dragon T-34/76 Mod.1942
- Tristar Sturmpanzer IV (Early)
- Tamiya Churchill Mk. VII
- Jeff Shiu 120mm Fallschirmjager
- HobbyBoss late-war Landwasserschlepper
- Dragon 1:35 "Bison I"
- Academy 1:35 Merkava IV
- "Commando' armoured car reference

» and more...

Issue 39

- Dragon's 1:35 Panther G w/ Zimmerit
- Tamiya and Accurate Armour 1:48 Tillys
- Dragon 1:35 scale 15cm Field Gun
- FRONT LINE BAE Systems Panther
- Trumpeter 1:35 railway artillery shunt
- Dragon 1:35 "Smart Kit" Stug
- Building a Display Case Part I
- AMPS 2009 show report

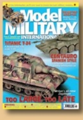
» and more...



Issue 40

- Dragon 1:35 Panzer IV
- Tamiya's 1973 Matilda upgraded.
- Tamiya Matilda Mk.III/IV.
- Italeri 1:35 Bergepanther
- Accurate Armour 1:35 Jagdpanzer E10
- Dragon 1:72 US Marine Corps Amtrac
- Trumpeter ASLAV 25
- Building a Display Case Part 2

» and more...



Issue 41

- MiniArt 1:35 Bantam as a Scout Car.
- Tamiya's all-new Jagdtiger.
- Zvezda 1:35 Mercedes L4500A.
- Trumpeter 1:16 T-34/85 - wrecked.
- Trumpeter 1:35 VRC-105 heavy armoured car.
- Tamiya 1:35 Citroen 11CV Traction and LRDG Chevy.
- Tamiya 1973 vintage Matilda Pt.2
- Building a Display Case Part 3.

» and more...

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From the Front Line

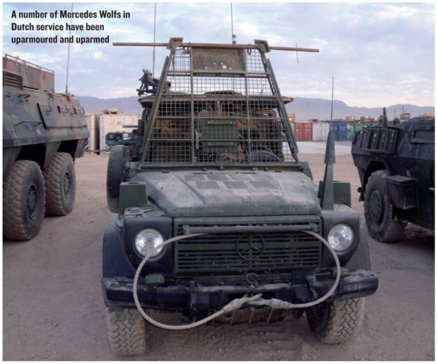
FROM THE FRONT LINE is a regular new feature for Model Military International magazine. If you have seen recent overseas service, or if you are on the front lines right now, we'd love to see your photographs of vehicles, uniforms, or other items that might be of interest to military modellers. Send your photos or enquiries to editor@modelmilitary.com

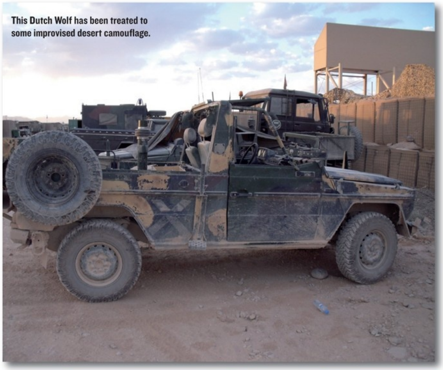
UP-ARMOURED MERCEDES WOLF

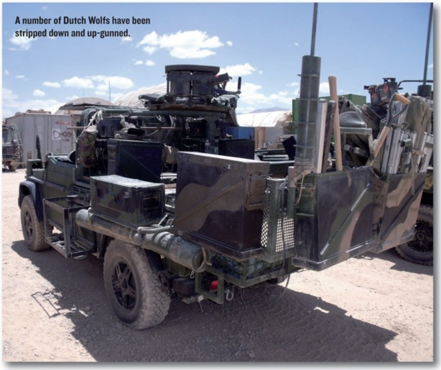
Joel Russ is back in Afghanistan after leave, and he came across these Dutch Army Mercedes Wolfs.

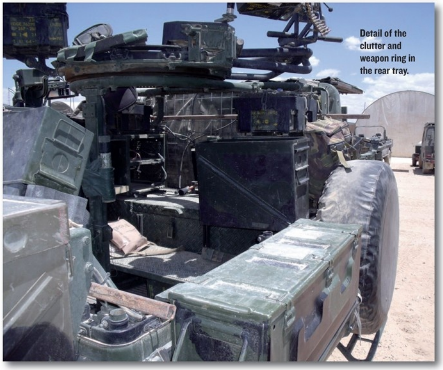
Here are some photos of Dutch Mercedes Wolfs in Afghanistan. These are just new into service with the Dutch.

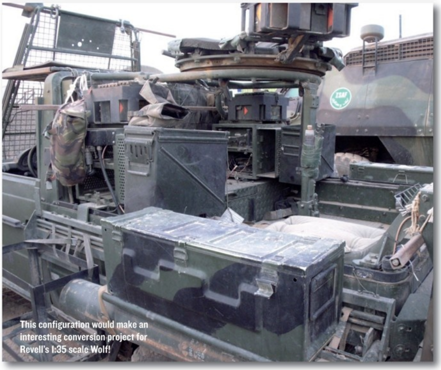
Some of the Wolfs have been uparmoured, while others are the older unarmoured version.. ■


A number of Mercedes Wolfs in Dutch service have been uparmoured and uparmed


This Dutch Wolf has been treated to some improvised desert camouflage.

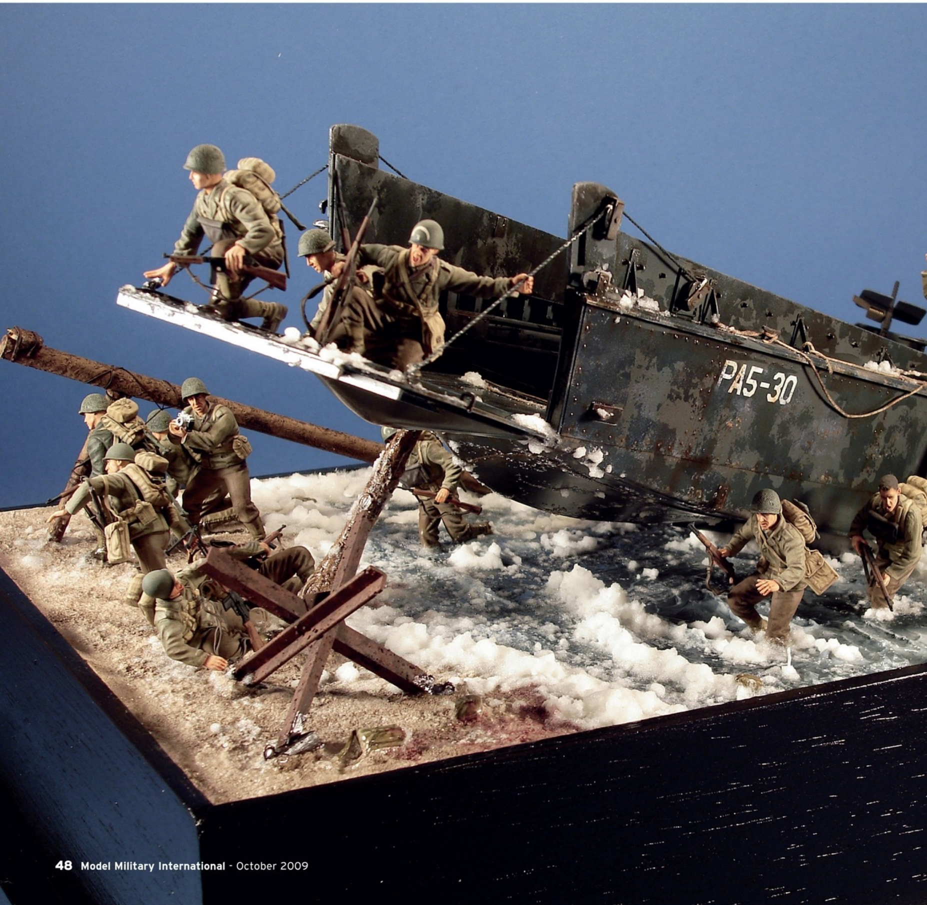

A number of Dutch Wolfs have been stripped down and up-gunned.


Detail of the clutter and weapon ring in the rear tray.


This configuration would make an interesting conversion project for Revell's 1:35 scale Wolf!

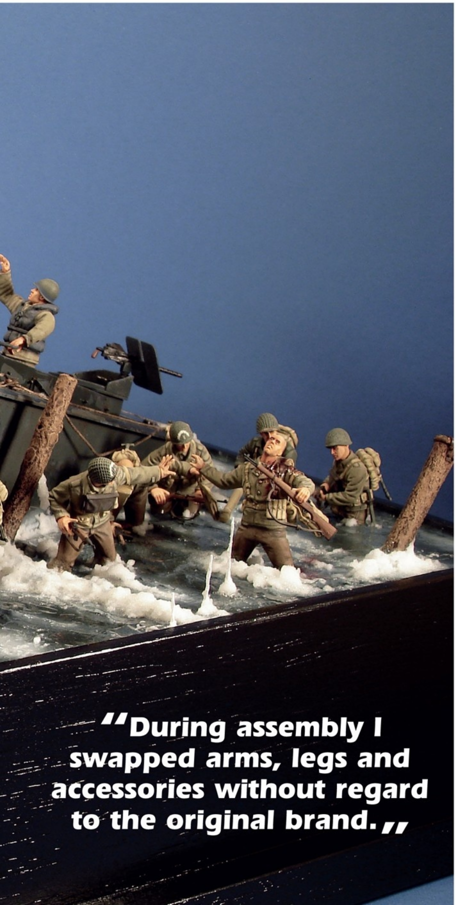
THE LONGES

PART ONE – PREPARING THE ELEMENTS



ST DAY

Jose Brito commences work on an ambitious 1:35 scale D-Day Diorama featuring Italeri's Landing Craft.



> **"During assembly I swapped arms, legs and accessories without regard to the original brand."**

"Believe me, Lang, the first twenty-four hours of the invasion will be decisive… the future of Germany depends on it… for the Allies and for us this will be the longest day".

Field Marshal Erwin Rommel to a comrade on 22 April 1944.

OPERATION OVERLORD

For several months prior to D-Day, BBC radio transmitted coded messages to the French resistance. In the evening of 5 June 1944 those messages were: "Les carrots sont cuites" (The carrots are cooked), "Les dés sont sur le tapis" (The die are cast), "Les sanglots longs des violins de láutomne bercent mon Coeur d ▯une langueur monotone" (The long sobs of autumn's violins break my heart with monotonous melancholy). This was the signal for the French resistance that the Operation Overlord was underway. D-Day had dawned.

Operation Overlord was the largest single-day amphibious assult in history. It involved a staggering amount of different weapons, tactics and logistical organisation.

Tuesday, 6 June 1944, D-Day, was a crucial crossroads in the Second World War. More than 1,000 warships, 10,000 warplanes, about 3,000,000 soldiers and a huge number of all kinds of armoured vehicles would eventually be landed on the Normandy coast. Despite a number of delays and setbacks, the Allies entered victorious in Paris by August 1944.

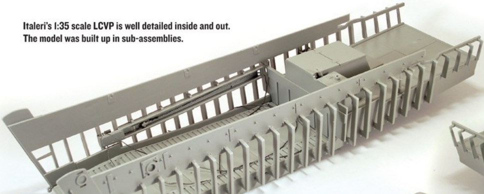
INSPIRATION

I have been fascinated with Operation Overlord for as long as I can remember. I saw the movie "Saving Private Ryan" twice when it was first released in 1998, and I was just amazed. In 2004 I had the opportunity to go to Normandy to watch and participate in the 60th D-Day Anniversary. It was fantastic to visit such historical sites as Omaha Beach, Saint Mére Eglise, Vierville, Colleville, Point du Hoc, Arromanches, Pegasus Bridge sixty years after the invasion. I took a huge number of pictures and had the privilege to chat with D-Day veterans. It was at that time that I decided to make an Omaha Beach D-Day diorama.

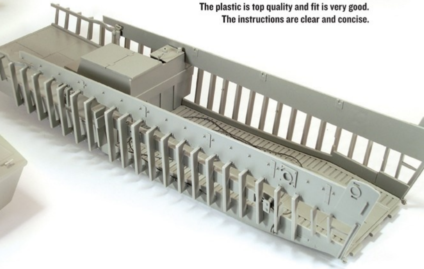
From the beginning, it was my ▶

Figures were sourced from a wide variety of manufacturers. Parts were mixed and matched to obtain specific poses for the scene. A small toolbox is useful for keeping all these parts organised.

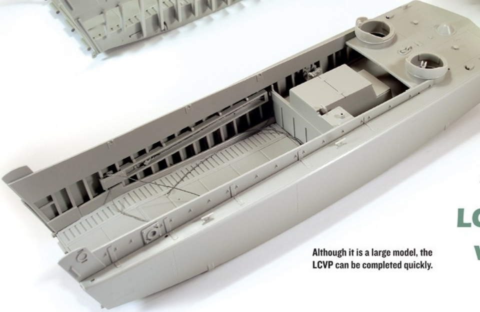
The Author at work.



Italeri's 1:35 scale LCVP is well detailed inside and out. The model was built up in sub-assemblies.



The plastic is top quality and fit is very good. The instructions are clear and concise.



Although it is a large model, the LCVP can be completed quickly.

> **"Construction of Italeri's LCVP is very straightforward with no nasty surprises."**

idea to include Robert Capa in my project. Capa volunteered to go with the first waves on Omaha Beach and his photographs are the only ones made in the early stages of the beach landings. Capa used to say: "If your photographs aren't good enough, you're not close enough!"

My project represents "E" Company, 16th RCT (Regimental Combat Team) from the 1st Infantry Division (the famous Big Red One). The location is the "Easy Red" sector, the code name for that portion of the beach. The day: 06 June 1944, Tuesday. The hour: 0630 in the morning.

BUILDING THE LCVP

LCVP stands for Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel. Italeri's 1:35 scale kit is a very fine model presented in a large box with attractive box art. The plastic quality is great and the detail is very nice.

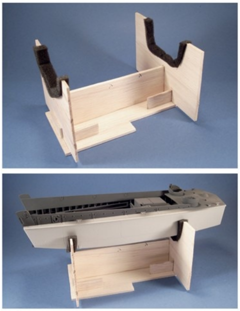
The kit is presented on 5 sprues plus a one-piece lower hull, a small length of string, another small length of grey cable and a decal sheet. The kit provides markings for four different versions:

- US Navy on Betio Island in the Tarawa Atoll, November 1943.
- US Navy on Iwo Jima, February 1945.
- US Navy in Normandy, June 1944
- British Navy LCVP also in Normandy, June 1944.

Construction of Italeri's LCVP is very straightforward with no nasty surprises. The LCVP is very well documented and it is easy to find good references on the internet, in books and magazines.

The instructions are clear and concise. They are divided into 12 steps and very soon the construction is finished. During that time I was already making plans to determine how I would place my LCVP in the scene. Even in 1:35 scale the LCVP is a big model so I decided that I had to place it in a very dynamic way to add interest to the scene.

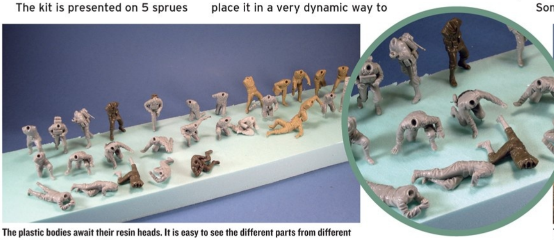
Before I started building the LCVP I made a jig from balsa wood to hold the model so that I would minimise handling.



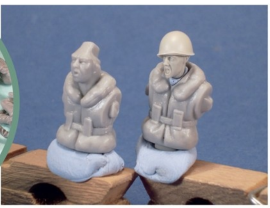
A jig was built from balsa wood to hold the assembled model. The jig makes it much easier to handle the model during the painting stage.

ASSEMBLING THE FIGURES

I planned to use a large number of figures. These came from a wide variety of sources. All the figures are injection-moulded plastic and all the heads are resin items from Hornet. The figures came primarily from Dragon, Master Box, Tamiya and Italeri. During assembly I swapped arms, legs and accessories without regard to the original brand. In this way I was able to personalise each figure according my plans to represent the chaos on the beach. Building all those figures was very time consuming but equally enjoyable. Some details such as gun straps received extra attention. They are a very prominent feature yet most of the time are neglected by manufacturers. Fortunately, Dragon is now offering photo-



The plastic bodies await their resin heads. It is easy to see the different parts from different brands that make up each figure.



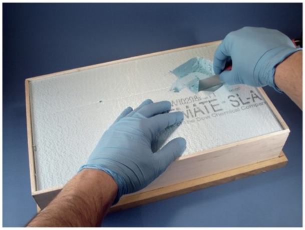
The LCVP crew figures during construction. Note the difference between the plastic and resin heads in this picture.

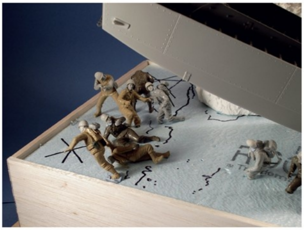
The bottom of the base is a solid piece of wood.

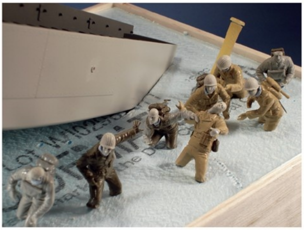
Balsa wood is carefully cut to form the sides of the scene. Balsa wood is lightweight, inexpensive and easy to work with.

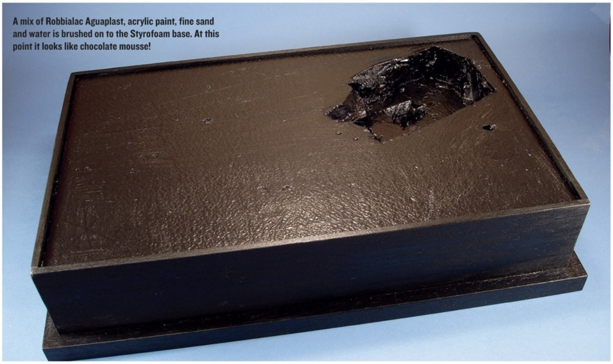
The box starts to take shape.

Lot W10208F911
ROOFMATE SL-A
Trademark of The Dow Chemical Company
The box is filled with a chunk of Styrofoam.


A rough hole is cut out to later accommodate the rearing LCVP. This has been cut at a diagonal angle to add interest to the scene.


Figures are test-fitted along with the LCVP to determine the shape of the final scene.


This step is also important to determine the exact position of each soldier's head.


A mix of Robbialac Aguaplast, acrylic paint, fine sand and water is brushed on to the Styrofoam base. At this point it looks like chocolate mousse!

etched gun straps in their most recent releases. Good job, Dragon! I made the straps from lead foil for the weapons and also for the bags. They add a more realistic look as they can be placed in the air, suggesting movement in the scene.

During assembly I also took some time to test fit figures and the LCVP in different positions. This helped lay out the entire scene and was also essential for determining the position of the figures' heads.

One of the figures would be Robert Capa so I had to scratch build a Contax camera. I found several fine photographs of this camera on the Internet. A Contax camera is tiny but lovely in 1:35 scale.

STARTING THE BASE

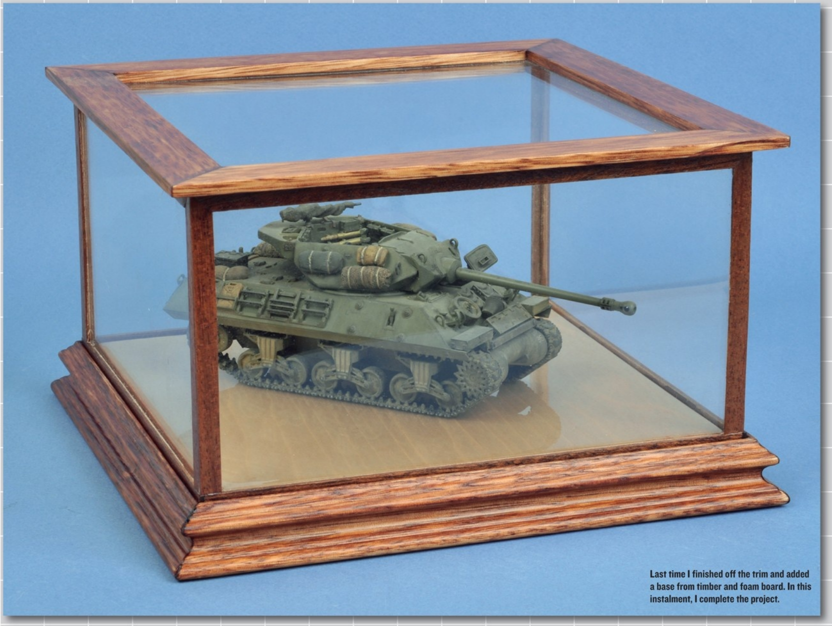
I build bases to display all of my projects and this one was no exception.

I like to build bases with substance. I normally prefer a wooden base, sidewalls from balsa wood, an interior filled with oasis foam or Styrofoam and pre-made filler to make the terrain texture.

In the case of my D-Day scene, I used a mix of Robbialac Aguaplast, acrylic paint, fine sand and water. Robbialac Aguaplast is a filler used in civil construction and is water based so it is very easy to work with. Once all these materials are mixed, they look like chocolate mousse and can be applied with the help of a medium-sized flat brush.

When it is dry the surface texture looks very realistic. It also dries rock hard. ■

In the next instalment, Jose will paint his LCVP and figures, and complete the scene.

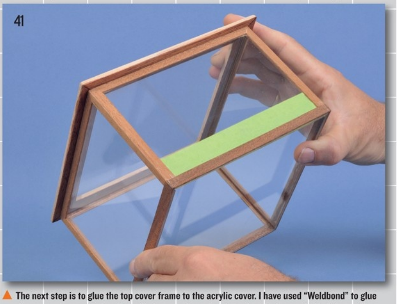


Last time I finished off the trim and added a base from timber and foam board. In this instalment, I complete the project.

ACRYLIC DISPLAY BASES

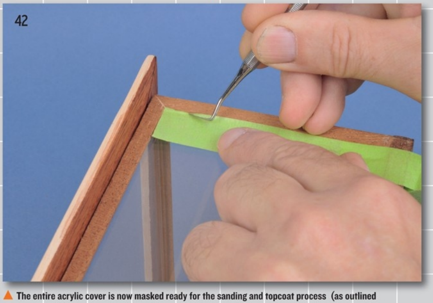
Luke Pitt concludes his four-part series on building your own acrylic display bases. In Part Four, Luke brings together his base and box.

PART FOUR



41

▲ The next step is to glue the top cover frame to the acrylic cover. I have used "Weldbond" to glue these two pieces together. You will also note from the photo that the bottom half of the top frame has been stained. I generally stain and topcoat the entire frame before gluing it in place. The reason is if the piece is not stained now it will be impossible to stain the underside later.



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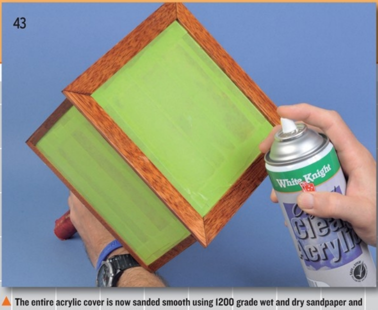
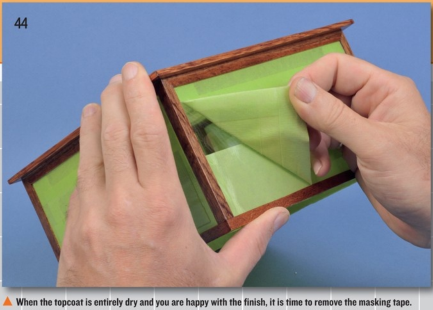
▲ The entire acrylic cover is now masked ready for the sanding and topcoat process (as outlined previously). I use 3m painter's masking tape. The edges of the tape are burnished into the side to form a paint-free seal.



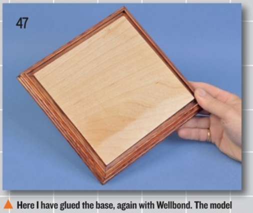
▲ The entire acrylic cover is now sanded smooth using 1200 grade wet and dry sandpaper and top coated in satin using the same method as I have employed for the base. Remember to sand between coats as we are looking for a silky smooth finish. I also tend to tape a handhold to the bottom of the case for ease of handling and drying.



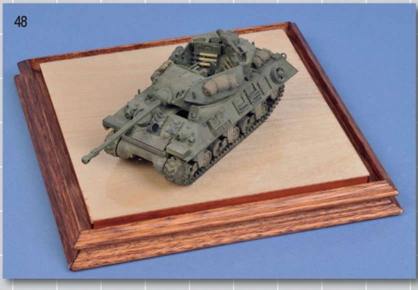
▲ When the topcoat is entirely dry and you are happy with the finish, it is time to remove the masking tape. When the tape is removed, I generally polish the clear areas of the cover with a "micro fibre" cloth and Windex to remove any smudges or foreign matter.

▲ The next step is the application of some non-scratch pads to the bottom of the base.
I have picked these up at a two-dollar shop (for, you guessed it, $2!). The pack contains 36 tabs enough, for nine bases.

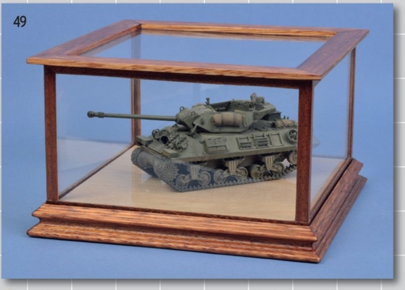
▲ I generally like to sign my work but I like to keep it out of sight. I once gave to Greenpeace and, as a result, they sent me these address tabs. They are handy as I place these on the bottom of the base with a hand written build date.



▲ Here I have glued the base, again with Wellbond. The model will sit on the bottom base. With the model in place, the acrylic cover will fit snugly inside the channel around the base.



▲ When these photos were taken at the Hyperscale / Missing Links / MMI studio, I did not have a model of my own to demonstrate how the model would sit on the base. Brett Green graciously allowed me to place one of his 1:48 scale armour kits for this demonstration. This is Tamiya's 1:48 scale M10 tank destroyer with MR Modellbau's Achilles conversion.



▲ In this last photo, the top cover has been added to the base. You will note all the wood colours are very much the same.

◀ In this last photo, I have stacked a few completed cases on top of one another to give you some ideal of the display possibilities.

CONCLUSION

So there you have it, an acrylic and timber display case.

I hope this article has inspired some of you to take those models out of the cupboard and display them. I must stress that this is only one method to display your models and there is no right or wrong way to do this. The polished wood base, for example, might not be to everyone's taste but you could easily replace this with groundwork or a small vignette. The most important thing is that these covers not only display your models but also keep them dust free.

48th 1:48 Scale – A round-up of the latest news and releases

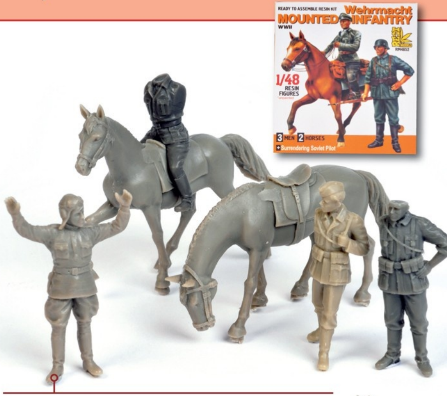
Luke Pitt hosts MMI's examination of the growing world of 1:48 scale military models, figures and accessories.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT IS AN OLD SAYING, BUT IN MODELLING PARLANCE IT IS EVERYTHING!
This was rammed home to me when I attempted to paint a few figures during my last 1:48 scale build. Face painting is never an easy task and only a select few can pull it off time and time again, especially in this smaller scale. I considered myself to be a competent figure painter, but nowhere near as good as the masters of the hobby. I approached my figures in blissful ignorance and proceeded to paint them. Time and time again I was dissatisfied with my results when comparing them to others. It then dawned on me the reason these master figure painters were so good is constant practice! Sure, skill is one thing and it can be argued that this is what sets the masters apart, but what about the average Joe like you and me? The answer is practice. Any human endeavor requires it and at times it can be frustrating. I am lucky enough to know a number of armour modellers from around the world and there is one who I considered to be a competent, but not great, modeller when I first met him. He used to ask for my advice and I now find myself asking for his. The reason is practice! This modeller can build and paint at an astonishing rate and produce a world-class model in a number of weeks where I, on the other hand, take months. What's the secret? He asks questions and incorporates new methods and painting styles in each of his builds. He has been known to build 12 models a year. I, on the other hand, am lucky to build three. Practice and frequency are the key words here, so it's simple. Buy and finish more kits (The model manufactures are going to love me for that comment). But in a sense it is true that the more you do something the better you become.

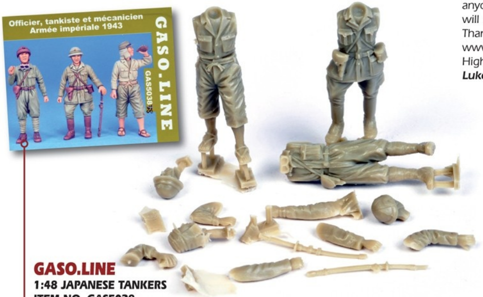
On a different topic I, have been toying with the idea of asking a set series of questions to some high profile 1:48 scale modellers from around the world. The questions would be.

"What would you consider to be your best 1:48 scale model and why?" "What is the most influential 48th scale model you have seen in print and why?" and "If you had to pick one kit that should be produced in 1:48 scale what would that be?". Let me know your thoughts on this through the Letters to the Editor page. I am also open to anything you may consider worthwhile on these pages. ■



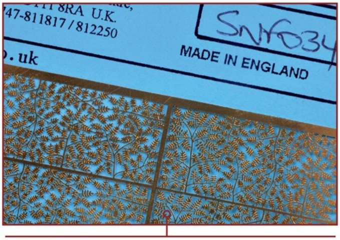
REST MODELS

1:48 WEHRMACHT MOUNTED INFANTRY
ITEM NO. 4852
We previewed this set in our first column a few months back and we have now been supplied a sample by the manufacturer. This release is made up of very well cast resin parts and is quite simply stunning. The figure sculpts (of which there are three) are perfect with all the fabric folds and facial details rendered to a very high standard. Similarly, the two horses again very well done with, the only thing missing being the reins. The thing that I really like about this set, apart from how well it is done, is that the subject matter is different from the norm. I have not hesitation in recommending this set to anyone. It is a high quality product that will not disappoint.
Thanks to Rest Models for the sample
www.restmodels.com
Highly Recommended.
Luke Pitt



GASO.LINE

1:48 JAPANESE TANKERS
ITEM NO. GAS5038
This new set from Gaso.line is a bit of a surprise as there are no mainstream plastic Japanese Tanks on the market as yet. Granted, Gaso.line offers a few Japanese tanks but I am wondering if someone in France knows something that we don't in regard to a mainstream plastic Japanese tanks kit? Only time will tell. In a word these figures are outstanding. The fabric folds and facial detail of these figures set them apart from the pack as they are really well done. The level of detail sets new standards for the figures coming out of the Gaso. Line stable. Three full figures are included with separate heads and arms in a pleasing mix of uniform styles.
Gaso.Line products are available online from the Quarter-Kit website www.quarter-kit.com
Highly Recommended.
Luke Pitt



SCALE LINK

FOLIAGE
ITEM NO. SNFO34
This photo-etched product from Scale Link is not new but has been passed on to me for review by the manufacturer. This set will be perfect for 1:48 scale foliage whether it be for tanks or diorama settings.
The leaves are very small and there is more than enough material to camouflage an entire tank. I must say I am very impressed with this product and will incorporate it into one of my future 1:48 scale builds.
Available online from www.scalelink.co.uk
Highly Recommended.
Luke Pitt

KENGI

1:48 BRITISH MK.IVA CRUISER TANK

Kengi is a model company from California with a small but interesting range of full resin kits, conversions and accessories in 1:48 scale. One of their most recent releases is a 1:48 scale British Cruiser Tank Mk.IVA. The kit comprises 71 parts cast in pale grey resin an five parts in black resin. This is a welcome change from earlier releases that were cast in white, making it difficult to discern details on the unpainted parts. Casting quality is very high indeed with minimal blemishes on the parts. It is pleasing to note that, apart from some wafer-thin resin flash, the parts are almost ready to use straight from the bag. There are no conventional casting blocks to worry about with this resin kit.

The largest parts are the pre-formed lower body and the one-piece turret. Although the turret is solid, it features a deep recess underneath the opening of the cupola so you will be able to install a full-length Commander figure.

Each of the side fenders is also cast in one piece, easing assembly of this sometimes tricky aspect.

Detail parts are beautifully done. Some of these small parts are remarkable in their diminutive size and detail. The running gear is equally impressive. The flat-covered wheels are perfectly cast with their perforations on the rim particularly well represented. The tracks are supplied in five lengths each of light grey and black resin. The grey resin is the conventional hard material that we all know and love. The traditional method to install his style of track around tight drive sprockets and idler wheels has been to heat the resin with water or a hair dryer (I have always preferred the latter), then shape the track length while it is still flexible. Kengi has eliminated this heating step by providing five flexible black track lengths that can be manipulated around tight corners without any heating. Once again, detail is very delicate and crisp on the tracks, inside and out. The new flexible tracks do not seem to suffer in this department.

Instructions are supplied on 15 letter-sized photocopied sheets with large captioned monochrome images of each construction stage.

Although the instructions suggest that this is not a simple kit to assemble, anyone who has already built a resin kit will not have any trouble with this little beauty. Neither decals nor marking suggestions are included.

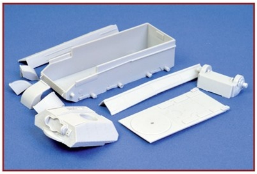
I have test-fitted the major components, and fit appears to be very good.

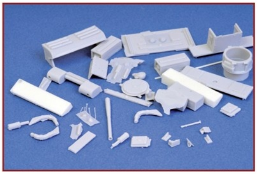
Kengi's 1:48 scale Mk.IVA looks to be a little gem of a kit, and will look great in a Western Desert or France 1940 setting.

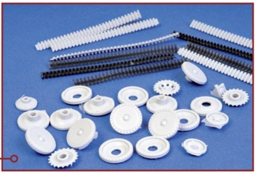
Kengi kits appear occasionally on ebay. Alternatively, you may contact Kengi by email on alliedken@roadrunner.com for a list of currently available kits and accessories.

Highly Recommended.

Brett Green







PARABELLUM

1:48 SCALE BRITISH FIGURES

PMM30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38

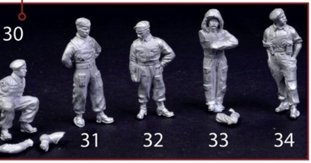
Parabellum has added nine new white metal figures to their range. These are all 1:48 scale WWII British subjects:

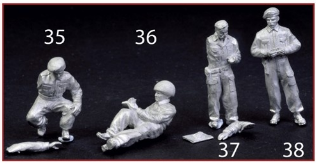
PMM30 - crouching figure in Battle Dress
PMM31 – bare-headed figure with arms folded behind back wearing undershirt and braces
PMM32 - standing figure in battle dress and beret with map case in right hand
PMM33- Pixie-Suited Tank Commander with hood up speaking into microphone
PMM34- standing figure in Battle Dress and webbing wearing beret with hands in pockets
PMM35- crouching figure in Battle Dress with right arm to side
PMM36- tanker lying down in Battle Dress and helmet writing into book supported by knee
PMM37- tanker in Battle Dress and beret with binoculars held against chest.
PMM38- Bare headed tanker in Battle Dress pointing to map held in left arm.

The figures are cast in white metal. The poses are all very natural, and sculpting is of the highest quality. Detail is excellent. These new figures will add some welcome context to your 1:48 scale British military vignettes and dioramas. Parabellum figures may be purchased directly from their website www.parabellum.co.uk

Highly Recommended.

Brett Green





NEW PRODUCTS

KENGI

KENGI HAS JUST RELEASED AN ITALIAN 11/39 ITALIAN TANK, AND BY THE LOOKS OF THE PHOTOS OF IT WILL BE ANOTHER WINNER.

Mig Productions has released two new figure sets too, "Winter SS at Rest" (MP 48198) and "US M8 Crew" (MP 48199). These are both available online from Mig Productions' new webshop www.migproductionsforums.com/shop/

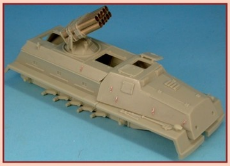
IN THE PIPELINE

Gaso-Line has announced a 1:48 scale German SWS halftrack and from the photos it looks like a fine piece of work. A full review will be posted in my next column.

Gaso.Line has also announced an Italian M 13-40, which should be a nice companion to Kengi's 11/39, a Soviet BRDM-2, an leSPW U304(f) 37mm PaK 36, German 15cm sFH 13/1 auf Geschützwagen Lorraine-S (f) Sd.Kfz. 135/1 and a French crew for 75mm anti-tank gun Schneider. Gaso.Line are certainly keeping themselves busy!

We will have more details of these interesting new releases in Issue 43 of MMI.

Gaso.Line kits, accessories and figures are available online from Quarter Kit www.quarter-kit.com



Until next time

Luke Pitt

Small Scale A round-up of the latest news and releases in 1:72 and 1:76

German 280mm K5(E) Railway Gun Leopold
HOBBYBOSS
1:72

HOBBYBOSS

1:72 GERMAN 280MM K5(E) RAILWAY GUN LEOPOLD • KIT NO. 82903

This is not the first model in this scale of the massive German Railway gun as Hasegawa released a small scale Leopold many years back. The Hasegawa version is really showing it's age now though and in many areas the detail is poor or simplified. HobbyBoss has now come to the rescue with an all-new kit that is far ahead in terms of detail and moulding. The parts for the vehicle are provided on a whopping nine sprues, along with the massive main body and the two axle beds being provided as single pieces. Short lengths of fine brass chain and thread are also included. I was happy to see the HobbyBoss Rail track set included in the box, providing an appropriate base for the model to sit on.

The detail is without doubt excellent and the moulding is very good with no flash or sink marks. I did notice a number of ejector pin marks on some of larger parts and, although many are in places not visible on the finished model, some will need filling. The gun barrel comes in two halves and due to its size it'll require a fair bit of work to eliminate the join (in fact the barrel is larger than that of a 35th scale Jagdtiger!) The part count is high so this certainly isn't a kit for a beginner. Fortunately the instruction booklet is comprehensive and clearly laid out which will greatly help.

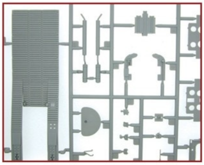
Marking are offered for two colour schemes, one a single dark grey finish and the other a red-brown and dark yellow two-tone camouflage.

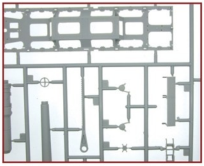
This is a very impressive and detailed kit and will build into an eye-catching model.

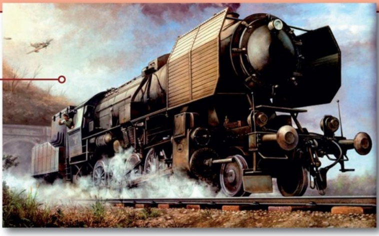
Thanks to Creative Models for the sample www.creativemodels.co.uk

Highly Recommended.

Alex Clark







HOBBYBOSS

1:72 GERMAN KRIEGSLOKOMOTIVE BR52 • KIT NO. 82901

HobbyBoss has been producing some interesting railway related kits recently. Along with the Leopold Railway Gun we now have the equally impressive BR52 locomotive. In many ways this kit is similar to the Leopold, being equally well moulded with some very finely detailed parts. It also includes the same additional rail track set and overall is of comparable complexity. The majority of parts are provided on seven main sprues with a frame and carriage section as separate, whole items. The clear glass parts are represented on a small transparent sheet and require cutting out. Being thin acetate they give an in-scale appearance and this is much better than the clear plastic glazing that some kits provide. There is a separate small packet labelled "Steam Brake" that contains the external plumbing for the main engine body. This is made of soft, flexible plastic to allow it to flex around the shape of the engine.

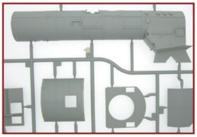
Markings are provided for two quite striking colour schemes, one split into a black upper half with a red lower section, the other in a garish two-tone striped camouflage.

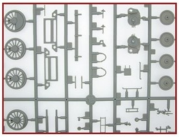
I was impressed with this kit. No doubt it will be a time consuming build but the results will be stunning.

Thanks to Creative Models for the sample www.creativemodels.co.uk

Highly Recommended.

Alex Clark





ATTACK
HOBBY KITS
PzBefWg I Ausf. A
II.W.W. German Wehrmacht command vehicle
72867
1:72
Plastikový model
Plastic model kit
Plastik-Modellbausatz
Modèle réduit
UPGRADE

ATTACK HOBBY KITS

1:72 PZ.BEF.WG. I AUSF. A • KIT NO 72867

A few years ago, I reviewed a short-run Attack plastic kit for HyperScale and I was not impressed. There was a lot of flash, detail was soft, most tools were moulded on but worst of all, the tracks were just single lengths of plastic track and you had to bend them around the sprockets and wheels.

I avoided plastic kits from Attack ever since, although their resin looked okay. Then, last month at a club meeting, I saw one of their latest kits, a Hetzer. It looked a lot better than I remembered. Then the Editor offered me this kit and I decided I had better take another look.

Well, this is definitely an improvement. There is still a little flash and the detail is still a little softer than I would prefer but the over-all moulding is much improved, about equivalent to one of the better Ace kits.

On opening the box, the 68 plastic parts are all sealed separately in plastic plus, the biggest improvement in my opinion, 18 resin parts including 4 curved track sections to wrap around the drive sprockets and return rollers and the perforated shields to cover the exhausts.

Attack is not afraid to tackle some very fine moulding. The frame aerial for this vehicle is supplied in plastic and is almost to scale.

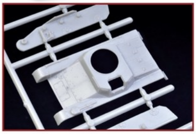
The only other small-scale Panzer I is the old Esci kit now under the Italeri label. This is not a bad kit but its small faults have been corrected in Attack's new offering.

Being a short-run mixed media kit, this is not for the novice but with some TLC and a good paint job a very nice Panzer I will be had.

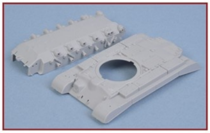
Thanks to MPM / CMK for the sample www.cmkkits.com

Recommended.

Glen Porter



TRUMPETER
US M26(T26E3) Pershing Heavy Tank
1/72 SCALE
Lenght: 116.93mm
Width:49.3mm
Height:42.35mm
美国M26/T26E3"潘兴"重型坦克



TRUMPETER

1:72 M46 PATTON • KIT NO. 07288

The M46 Patton was a 1948 development of the WWII-era Pershing that overcame its greatest deficiency – the underpowered engine. It introduced a whole new powerplant resulting in a redesigned rear deck with two distinctive fender mounted exhausts but maintained the turret and gun of the M26A1 Pershing. It first saw service in the Korean war and was developed into the M47 Patton with a different ballistic shaped turret.

This kit is based on Trumpeter's earlier 1:72 scale M26 kits and offers a new upper hull plus link and length tracks of the T80 type in its approx 160 parts. Parts are flash-free although the track links have knockout marks on the inner face. Detail is sharp and parts kept to a minimum although detail is preserved. The running gear can be positioned with individual axles. Wheels are two part. Unfortunately, like its predecessor, the hatches are moulded shut. Markings are a provided for just one vehicle - C-25.

The kit is accurate compared to information in Hunnicut's book, and will make up into a stunning small scale M46. It will appeal to fans of Cold War US, Korean War and Belgian armour (the only foreign user of the M46).

Thanks to JB Wholesalers for the sample www.jbwholesalers.com.au

Highly Recommended.

Al Bowie

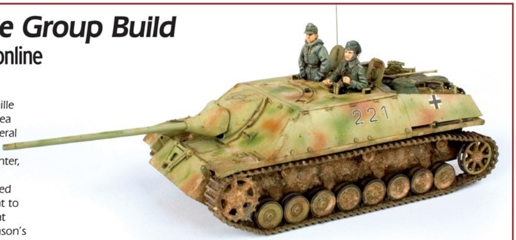
Small Scale Panzer IV Online Group Build

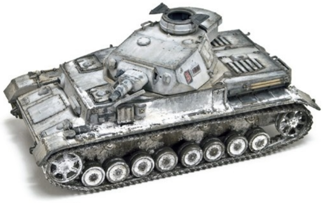
Alex Clark reports on a recent small-scale online build for the Panzer IV and its variants.

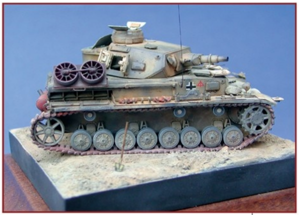
In the months running up to the end of May, an online group build was jointly organised by the Braille Scale Competition and Missing Lynx websites (www.braillescalecomp.com and www.missing-lynx.com respectively). Modellers could build any vehicle based on the Panzer IV chassis with progress photos posted on the Missing Lynx "Braille Scale" Forum.

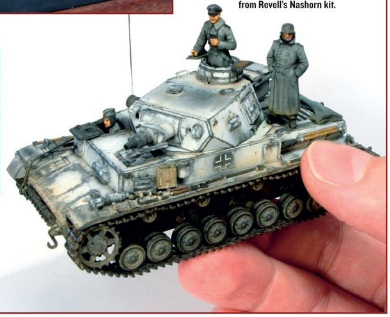
When the competition deadline was reached, the completed builds were then entered on the Braille Scale Competition site. The idea proved popular, although several modellers missed out on the deadline and the chance to enter, myself included!

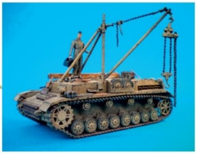
The overall winner was selected by a public vote and this went to Jason Boulter and his excellent PzIV/70 from Dragon. Both Jason's winning entry and a small selection of other models submitted for the build are presented here.

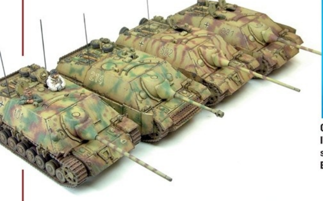

Jason Boulter's 1:72 scale Jagdpanzer IV L/70 from Dragon. He made many modifications and improvements to the kit, including lowering the roof and engine deck to the correct size, reshaping the saukopf mantlet and scratch building the hatches.


Dragon's new 1:72 scale Panzer IV F1 from Mike Rinaldi. He gave the model a finish that allowed him to attempt as many 1/35 painting techniques as possible. It represents a tank from the 5th Panzer Div. seen in the bitter cold Russian winter. The idea was to capture the moment of a fresh snowfall.


Carlo Rizzo built this Panzer IV F1 by combining Revell and Hasegawa Panzer IV kits. He also added a fully detailed, scratch built interior and finished it off as a DAK vehicle.


Alex Clark's Panzer IV F1 from Dragon. A number of improvements were made, including replacing the wheels with the improved versions from Revell's Nashorn kit.


Christian Weber built this 1:72 scale Bergepanzer IV by combining the Revell Panzer IV kit with scratchbuilt parts and a crane from Dragon's Bergepanzer Tiger (P). The figure is from Prieser.


A wargaming unit of Dragon Jagdpanzer IVs from Brent Watterson. He built these 1:72 scale kits almost out-of-the-box with only a few minor changes for some variety.

Incoming

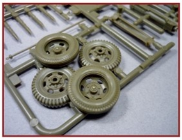
Vision MODELS
1/35 SCALE
U.S. M1A1 75mm Pack Howitzer

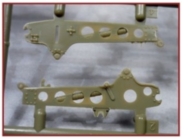
VISION MODELS

1:35 U.S. M1A1 75MM PACK HOWITZER
ITEM NO. VM-35001

Artillery is not particularly well covered in the modelling industry. However, I am pleased to report that things are changing. Vision Models from Taiwan is a new company with a rather surprising first effort, the U.S. M1A1 75mm pack howitzer.

This gun was widely used during WWII. The pack howitzer was a small gun designed to be easily transported. The 'pack' refers to the fact the gun can be broken down into small components. VM give us this option too, and that is one of the advantages of the kit.





The box is very small, containing two sprues, a set of wheels, a short brass barrel, the instructions and a sheet with photographs of the actual gun. I like this, a nice touch from Vision Models. The kit has just over 50 parts.

Parts are moulded in green plastic, which is softer than the grey that DML uses. Moulding standards are high, but there is some flash present. I would recommend a razor saw to remove the parts from the sprues. They are well detailed and using side cutters could destroy some of the detail. Be careful to address pin marks. The barrel sleigh has a rather prominent one. The trail assemblies also have ejector pin marks. They might not be too visible on the finished model though.

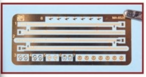
VM offers the choice of two sets of wheels. One has the military pattern of tread, while the other has a civilian pattern. Both were used on the pack. There are five shells in plastic. Later, VM will release a metal ammuntion set and a full metal barrel assembly.

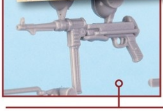
Add some Marines or British paratroopers, a bit of imagination and a nice scene will result. Overall, this is a great little package.

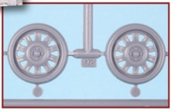
Highly Recommended.

Martin Dogger

8.8cm Raketenwerfer 43 "Püppchen" w/Fallschirmjäger
DRAGON







DRAGON PREMIUM EDITION

8.8CM RAKETENWERFER 43 "PÜPPCHEN" W/ FALLSCHIRMJÄGER
ITEM NO. 6528

Dragon continues to re-release and re-box combinations of their older kits under the 'Premium Edition' banner.

Here we have an amalgam of their 8.8cm 'Püppchen', four figures from the Fallschirmjäger, Crete 1941 set and three figures from the 7.5cm Leichtgeschutz 40 set.

Two complete guns are included. These are still very tidy and well detailed little kits, with four ammo crates and eight rockets included.

The combination of figures enable one to be shown in the firing position, manned by two kneeling figures and a standing observer with binoculars. The remaining four figures are towing, or walking alongside the other gun.

Whilst not up to the standard of Dragon's most recent figures, detail is good and the poses, if a little stiff, are very useable.

The weapons and ammunition do, however, benefit from the newer 'Gen 2' treatment and a small etched fret contains rifle straps, belt buckles, airborne eagles and other uniform decoration.

Available from hobby shops worldwide.

Recommended.

Darren Thompson

COLORI ACRILICI PEINTURES
LIFECOLOR
Camouflage Series
UA 225 Light Stone 61
UA 226 Terracotta 44
UA 227 Slate Grey 34
UA 228 Light Grey Silver Grey 28
UA 229 Portland Stone 64
UA 230 Desert Pink
net 22 ml

LIFECOLOR

MIDDLE EAST BRITISH VEHICLE CAMOUFLAGE PAINTS

Colours are always a bit of a difficult topic for modellers. You can spend days talking to fellow modellers and still not have a clue what paint you need.

A lot of extremely valuable work has been done by Mike Starmer on the subject of British colours. He has been digging through a lot of material from archives, books and magazines. The results of his efforts are available in four self-published booklets. They are not very fancy, with a very simple layout and spiral binding. But it's inside what counts. Starmer has managed to find a lot of the original instructions for camouflage schemes and has also produced accurate paint chips.

Brett Green and Chris Wauchop used Starmer's book on 'The Caunter Scheme', when they painted Tamiya's Matilda in Issue 40 of MMI. As they noted, White Ensign Models produce a range of paints, matched to Starmer's paint chips. These are enamels based, so some modellers will not be keen to use them. Chris and Brett used Tamiya paints to mix their own colour. But let me show another approach.

Lifecolor has a range of acrylic paints. Over recent years, they have been releasing sets with a specific theme. One of their most recent releases is appropriately entitled 'Middle East British Vehicle Camouflage'. You get six bottles of paint, presented in a nice cardboard box. The box top shows an M3 Stuart 'Honey' painted in the Caunter scheme. The colours in this set are as follows.

- UA 225 Light Stone 61
- UA 226 Terracotta 44
- UA 227 Slate Grey 34
- UA 228 Light Grey Silver Grey 28
- UA 229 Portland Stone 64
- UA 230 Desert Pink

When I started building the Vulcan Scale Models QF 2pounder kit, I also took out the Lifecolor set. I wanted to compare them to the paint chips in the Starmer books. And this would also give me a good starting point for future British AFV projects.

The bottles are sturdy, with a screw cap. The opening is bigger than I'm used to, having used mostly Vallejo before. You can thin the paints with water or with Lifecolor thinner. I thinned to about the consistency of milk to run them through my airbrush. For this review, I brush painted them on some plastic card. This was very easy, and the paintflow is very good. Top marks so far.

Now for the real test, how do these compare to the paint chips? I'm leaving the Terracotta and Desert Pink out, as I haven't got a sample to match it too. As for the others, they matched the chips quite closely in my opinion.

The Light Stone is a bit too light, but this can be rectified with weathering.

The Silver Grey in the Starmer book has a more greenish tint to it than the Lifecolor paint. Interestingly, it's a very close match for the Portland stone.

The Lifecolor Portland Stone is too 'fleshy' to match.

The best of the lot is Slate Grey. This one matches perfectly.

Overall, I would rate this is a good set of paints to have in your stash. The colours are, in my opinion, close enough to the paint chips to be convincing. Using weathering methods like filters, you can change the look and feel of the colours dramatically. The Lifecolor set is an easy, one-bottle solution to paint your British desert AFVs.

Now, where did I leave my Sherman II kit?

Lifecolor Acrylics are available from The Airbrush Company
Unit 7 Marlborough Road (East), Lancing Business Park,
Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 8UF
+44 (0)1903 767800 www.airbrushes.com

Recommended.

Martin Dogger

plusmodel
1/35
318
U.S. Ammunition boxes 5.56 mm
317
U.S. Ammunition boxes 7.62 mm
279
Nuts and bolts

PLUS MODELS

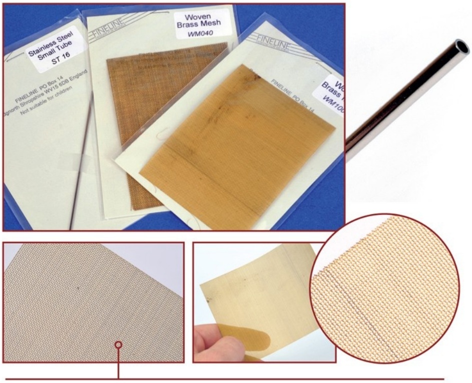
NUTS AND BOLTS. PRODUCT CODE 279
US AMMUNITION BOXES 7.62 MM. PRODUCT CODE 317
US AMMUNITION BOXES 5.56 MM. PRODUCT CODE 317

Plus Models always seems to come up with something that is a little different yet useful. These three new releases are small and for the most part very well done. The first set is a small photo etch fret of nuts and bolts. These are quite well done. The set consists of 1 mm, .08 mm and 05mm nuts and bolts in standard and flush mount forms. Thankfully all have only one attachment point to the fret itself, so removing the tiny parts will be fairly easy.

The next sets are US Ammunition boxes for 7.62.mm and 5.56mm shells. Both sets have six boxes on the photo etch fret plua instructions on how to fold them and attach the various fittings. Plus Models also include a small decal sheet of stencilling information for each of the boxes. It is touches like this that sets Plus Models apart from other manufacturers

It is nice to see a manufacturer going the extra mile for the modeller. Available in the UK from Creative Models www.creativemodels.co.uk Recommended.

Luke Pitt



Stainless Steel
Small Tube
ST 16
FINELINE
Woven
Brass Mesh
WM040
Woven
Brass Mesh
WM100

FINELINE

WOVEN BRASS MESH AND STAINLESS STEEL TUBE

Fineline Model Products offers a selection of basic materials for all sorts of modelling applications. The products under review here are a 4" length of small stainless steel tube, and two sheets of woven brass mesh. This is genuine woven mesh, not flat etched parts. One of the sheets is 40 wires per inch, while the other is a remarkably fine 100 wires per inch.

These are all handy materials to use for scratch building and diorama projects.

Fineline Model Products are available online at:
http://stores.shop.ebay.co.uk/Fineline-Model-Products

Brett Green

www.miniart-models.com

PLASTIC MODEL KITS
SCALE 1:72, 1:35, 1:16

MiniArt

Create History!

RUINED BUILDING
HISTORICAL MINIATURES SERIES
72017
L: 87 mm
H: 61 mm
W: 44 mm
1:72
MiniArt
WALL WITH BASE
DIORAMAS SERIES
UNASSEMBLED PLASTIC MODEL KIT
BOX CONTAINS DIORAMA BASE WITH WALL
PLANTS NOT INCLUDED
36035
L: 207 mm
W: 173 mm
1:35
LEICHTER Pz.Kpfw. Mk.I 202(e) w/CREW DINGO Mk.I
WW II MILITARY MINIATURES SERIES
UNASSEMBLED PLASTIC MODEL KIT
KIT CONTAINS 204 PARTS
BOX CONTAINS MODELS OF ARMORED CAR AND THREE FIGURES
WH 733644
35082
1:35

MiniArt Ltd.
Krylova str. 127, 95001, Simferopol, Ukraine
E-Mail: art@miniart-models.com
www.miniart-models.com
Tel./Fax.: +38(0652)249291

Distributor in U.K. **Creative Models Ltd.**
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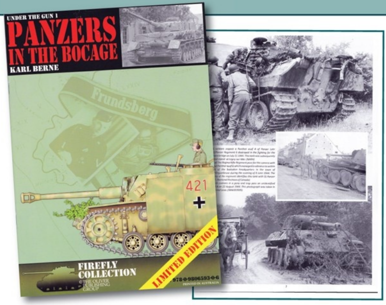
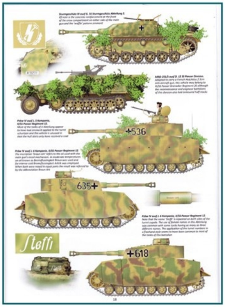
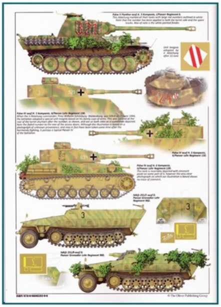
Cambridgeshire, England, PE16 6TG, U.K.
Tel./Fax.: 01354 760022
E-Mail: info@creativemodels.net, www.creativemodels.net

Book Reviews







OLIVER PUBLISHING GROUP

PANZERS IN THE BOCAGE – UNDER THE GUN 1 BY KARL BERNE
ISBN 978-0-9806593-0-6

This book, the first from the Oliver Publishing Group, follows on from earlier titles available from The Factory Publishing and covers wrecked and disabled Panzers in Normandy 1944. It is similar in format to the earlier titles and offers an additional page of colour plates (9 in total) in its 33 pages.

This book is essentially a collection of photos supported by colour plates. These appear to be mainly sourced from the Imperial War Museum collection. Pictures are clear and presented in large format, usually 2-3 to a page allowing the reader to see the detail. The Author has given a listing of the German armoured formations involved in the Normandy fighting with brief descriptions of these units and their service in Normandy. The captions for the photos are detailed and in the majority of cases have identified the units to which the vehicles belonged.

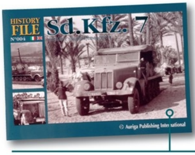
The colour plates cover a variety of vehicles including Stugs, Panzer IVs, Panthers, Tigers and half tracks. These are shown with scrap view illustrations where appropriate to display markings. The Author has speculated where details are not clear but this has been declared in the text. Where units could not be identified the Author has stated so.

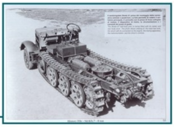
This book will appeal to fans of German Armour, modellers and historians alike. It shows a side of the German Armour rarely seen and in my opinion this should be encouraged. Modellers should find many an interesting scene to depict within its pages.

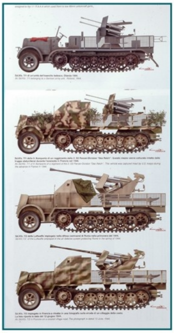
Available from specialist bookshops worldwide.

Recommended.

Al Bowie







AURIGA PUBLISHING INTERNATIONAL

HISTORY FILE NO.4 – SD.KFZ.7 MITTLERER ZUGKRAFTWAGEN 8T.
BY DANIELE GUGLIELMI • ISBN 88 88711 32 4
SOFTBOUND – A4 LANDSCAPE FORMAT – 66 PAGES

This timely release coincides nicely with the raft of new Sd.Kfz.7 kit releases from both Dragon and Trumpeter.

With the exception of a centre-spread of six side-profile colour plates, the book is given over entirely to period black and white photographs, with bi-lingual Italian – English captions.

Starting with the early production KMm8 and KMm10 examples the book continues along the timeline of the vehicle, covering the artillery tractor and prime mover versions, the un-armoured and armoured 7/1 and 7/2 Flak guns, the Gepanzerte 8t Zugkraftwagen 'Bunker Flak' and finally the Feuerleitpanzerfahrzeug V-2 launch vehicle.

The last few pages offer several close-up period photos highlighting details such as the running gear and cabin interior and finish off with a handful of contemporary museum shots, but again in black and white.

This will be a very handy reference, especially for those looking for diorama ideas for their 8 ton halftrack.

Available from www.bookworldws.co.uk

Recommended.

Darren Thompson

Advanced Figure Modelling
THE ESSENTIAL REFERENCE FOR THE FIGURE MODELLER
PERISCOPIO PUBLICATIONS
PAINTING FACES WITH ACRYLIC COLORS

PERISCOPIO PUBLICATIONS

ADVANCED FIGURE MODELLING VOLUME 1
ISBN 978 960 6740 49 7
SOFTBOUND - A4 FORMAT – STEP-BY-STEP GUIDES – FULL COLOUR

This book brings together award winning models from twenty-one of the worlds leading figure modellers, albeit with a slightly Greek bias, as might be expected from a Greek publisher.

The individual chapters cover stock figures and busts, minor conversions and full scratch-builds, even scratch-building with a view to having the finished figure cast commercially.

Each of the chapters focuses on a different figure or diorama. Some feature several photographs of the finished models only, but with a detailed descriptive text from the creator. Other chapters are more in-depth and feature the entire build in a step-by-step format, covering the building and painting in far greater detail, the author outlining the special techniques and skills used to create their miniature masterpiece.

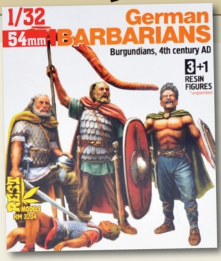
With subjects ranging from the Ancient Greeks and Spartans, through the Mongols, the Romans, the Teutonic Knights and early American settlers, up as far as the German forces of WWII, there really is something here for everyone and with such highly acclaimed and recognisable names as Ray Farrugia, Mike Blank and Jaume Ortiz, the quality of the models is undoubtedly high.

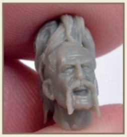
Thanks to Periscopio Publications for the review sample www.periscopio.gr/site/englishBooks.asp?cID=01

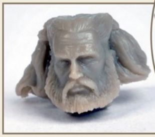
Highly Recommended.

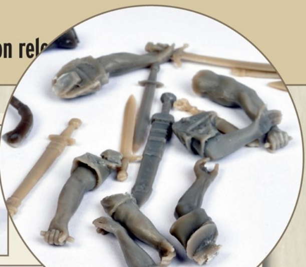
Darren Thompson.

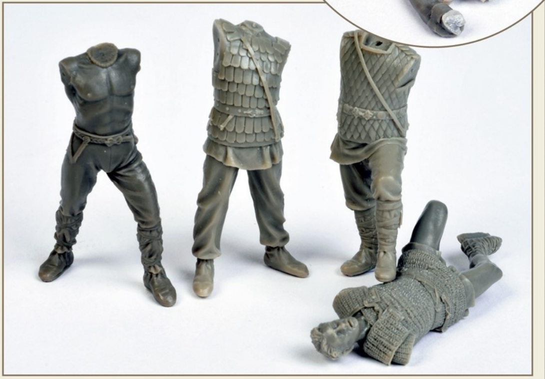
Figures - A round-up of the latest figure sets on rel

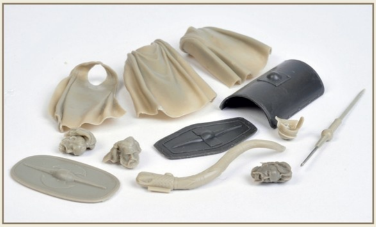


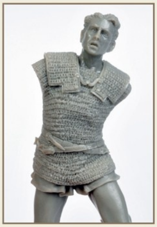












REST MODELS

1:32 (54MM) GERMAN BARBARIANS
ITEM NO. RM3204

Every once in a while, a review sample takes one's breath away. Not only are these figures by Rest Models different, but the quality, animation and casting are simply superb. The figures are packed in a very eye catching box with painted examples of the figures on one side and unpainted examples on the other. Three German Barbarians from the late Roman period are provided in various heroic poses, one with his foot on a slain Roman centurion. The box top labels these as German but with modification they could quite easily depict any of the warring tribes of the period. All of the figures are very well cast with no bubbles or flaws in evidence. The figures are basically cast as a torso with the heads and arms as separate items. The facial details (which can make or break any figure) are superb, with real character and definition in evidence. A. Gagarin, the sculptor involved in this project, deserves a pat on the back for his efforts. He has also included a full range of swords and shields as separate items.

The capes on all of the Barbarians are noteworthy as they are cast as separate items. They are all thin and exhibit outstanding definition. The clothing details are crisp, as are the fabric folds. The figures themselves measure out at around 5" 9 or 10 in the old Imperial scale and are more than acceptable in both height and bulk. This is an outstanding set of figures and well worth the purchase price.

Rest Models' products are available online on their website www.restmodels.com

Highly Recommended.

Luke Pitt

Hunting the Partisans Yugoslavia 1943
DRAGON

DRAGON

'HUNTING THE PARTISANS, YUGOSLAVIA 1943' • ITEM NO. 6491

This new four-figure set from Dragon features three German figures and an Italian. The Germans include a two-man MG-34 team in the standing position, with the gun being fired from the shoulder of the forward soldier. He wears a camouflaged smock, while the gunner is in a grey field tunic.

The poses are very nice, with the team shown on a slight incline, but as there is no groundwork included this pair will have to be incorporated into some suitable groundwork. The third German is semi-prone figure in the process of readying a stick grenade for throwing. This time Dragon provides a small plastic 'rock' for him to lean on. He too wears a camouflage smock and all three Germans wear ankle boots and gaiters.

The fourth figure is an Italian trooper, equipped with a choice of three suitable weapons, a Beretta sub-machine gun, a Breda light machine gun with bipod, or a Carcano carbine. He also sports the distinctive feather 'cockade' in his helmet.

This is another splendid set from Dragon. The faces and hands seem to improve with every release. The choice of theatre and inclusion of the Italian figure provides something a little more unusual.

I must also mention the box art too, by Carlos Chaga, which is outstanding.

Dragon products are available from hobby shops worldwide.

Highly Recommended.

Darren Thompson

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Ballistic Artillery

Simon Herbert scratch builds a Vidalwagen trailer for Dragon's A4 rocket, and Italeri's SWS comes along for the the ride.

Desert Raider

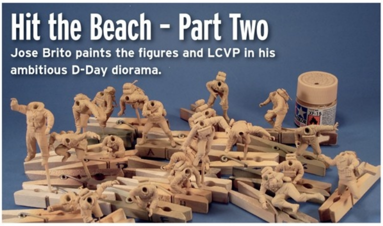
The Editor again teams up with Chris Wauchop to convert Tamiya's recently re-released LRDG Chevy into a gun truck, while Tobias Gibson presents a Think Tank reference piece on the Long Range Desert Group, their vehicles and camouflage.

An American Tourist in Italy

Javier Redondo and Cailos Elias combine forces to bring us an impressive Italian campaign diorama.

Hit the Beach – Part Two

Jose Brito paints the figures and LCVP in his ambitious D-Day diorama.



FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

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The Last Post...

INSPIRATION

By its very nature, modelling tends to be a solitary pursuit. Long hours spent hunched over a tiny piece of plastic at your workbench or your kitchen table is the norm. Even so, there are plenty of opportunities to interact with your fellow modellers both online and in person.

I have had the good fortune over the years to be part of a number of collaborative modelling ventures, mainly with my good friend and master modeller Chris Wauchop. Sometimes the projects are initiated by Chris, and sometimes by myself. Typically I will build the model and Chris will paint. These have been some of my favourite models, as often they are subjects that I might not have thought of building myself. Chris has made the same comment, most recently about the Caunter-schemed Matilda that appeared in Issue 40 of Model Military International magazine. He was not really interested in the scheme beforehand and did not particularly like the Matilda as a tank, but was fired up by our discussion of the colours and the references. Chris's completed paint job speaks for itself.

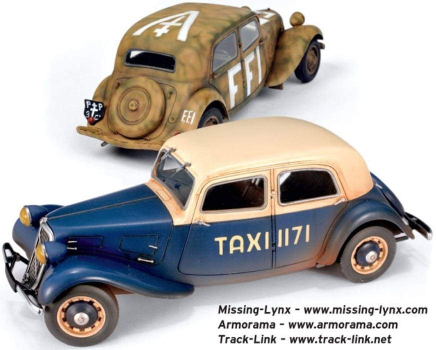
You don't need to build a model with a friend to unearth new inspiration. Visit your local model club or check out the Galleries and Forums (should that be Fora?) on websites such as Missing-Lynx, Armorama and Track-Link to find your plastic muse.

Sometimes, inspiration will come from an unexpected source. When I received Tamiya's new 1:35 scale Citroen 11CV Traction Avant last month, I wanted to build it straight away. I took stock of the models that I had built in previous months and realised that they were all finished in either hard-edged camouflage or a single solid colour. I was yearning for a mottled finish, but on the other hand we have an abundance of German subjects lined up for the magazine, so I was hoping for something a little different for variety. I was chatting online to our esteemed Group Editor, Marcus Nicholls, and mentioned my dilemma. "Take a look at this", he said – or more accurately, typed. Marcus sent a grainy still image from movie footage of a Citroen in mottled German camouflage with gigantic Free French markings on the doors, the roof and the bonnet. I was hooked.

Marcus experienced a flash of inspiration himself with this same model. Tamiya's kit proved to be the catalyst for an ambitious Vietnam street scene with the Citroen finished as a Saigon Taxi. You can see the resulting diorama and its Citroen centrepiece in Issue 167 of Tamiya Model Magazine International.

So if you are feeling jaded or in a modelling rut, stand up from your modelling workbench, have a stretch, and look outside your usual circles for some new motivation. Think about a different style of camouflage finish, an alternative nationality or adding your model to a scene. Regardless of where you live, you will never be too far from inspiration. You might even find it in a magazine! ■

HAIR CUT
ANH MINH
HỚT TÓC
Trẻ
CƠM PHỞ
1171 TAXI

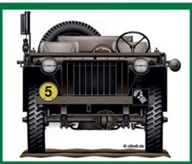


Missing-Lynx – www.missing-lynx.com
Armorama – www.armorama.com
Track-Link – www.track-link.net

TAMIYA'S BIG KV-2 AND MID-SCALE HUMVEE ON THE WAY

Tamiya has officially announced the September release of their 1:16 scale KV-2. The KV-2 was a behemoth in real life, and will make a very impressive large-scale model. This is a "Full Option" kit that includes digitally recorded sounds such as the manually operated turret rotation, gun barrel; barrel elevation and depression, and the sounds of the tracks and engine. The model also features control over turret rotation, gun elevation/depression, plus realistic light and vibration actions.

Tamiya's 1:48 scale Humvee will also be released as a standalone kit in September.



ERRATA

I must correct a few errors in attribution in Issue 41 of MMI. Firstly, the very attractive artwork of the Bantam on page 6 was created by Oliver Peissl (not Oliver Missing, as written in the caption – only my brain was missing on that occasion); and the two small-scale reviews on page 56 attributed to Darren Thompson were actually written by Alex Clark. Sorry guys!

DECALS AND GALLERIES ON MMI WEBSITE

This month on MMI's website we have a Gallery of unpublished images of Chris Wauchop's gorgeous 1:35 scale Marder III Ausf.M.

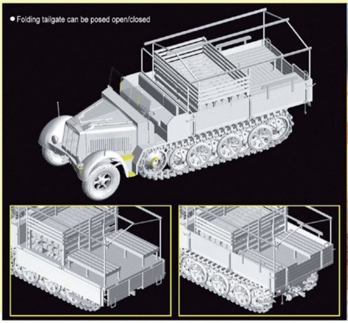
We have also posted the custom-made decal artwork for Free French markings as used on the Citroen in this Issue of MMI. You will just need to find someone with an ALPS printer to print the white markings!

Check them out at ***www.modelmilitary.com***

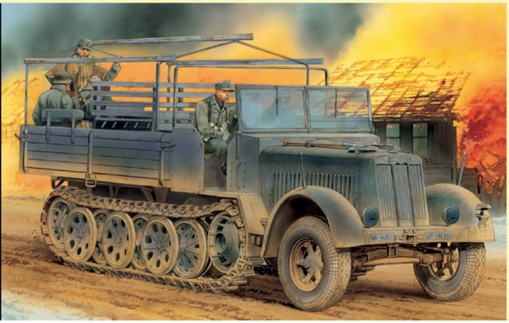
1:35 '39-'45 SERIES

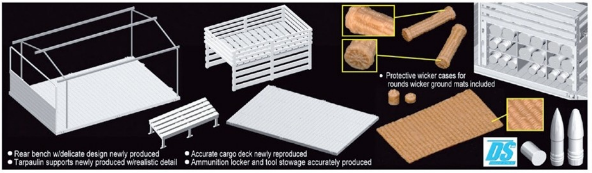
Sd.Kfz.7 8t Late Production

Engineered for modeling enjoyment **Plastic parts with enhanced detail** **Unprecedented value** **Ready for instant assembly!**

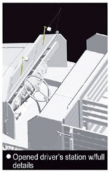


- Folding tailgate can be posed open/closed





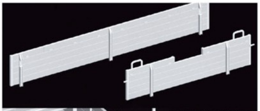
- Protective wicker cases for rounds wicker ground mats included
- Rear bench w/delicate design newly produced
- Tarpaulin supports newly produced w/realistic detail
- Accurate cargo deck newly reproduced
- Ammunition locker and tool stowage accurately produced

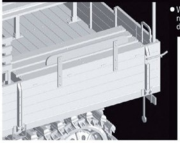


- Opened driver's station w/full details

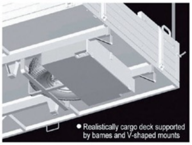
- Newly tooled cold-weather starter-connection on both sides of tow hook

- Gen2 Kar 98K can be mounted in rack
- Rifle rack accurately presented





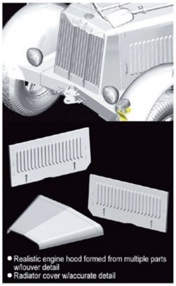
- Wooden side and tailgate newly designed w/great detail



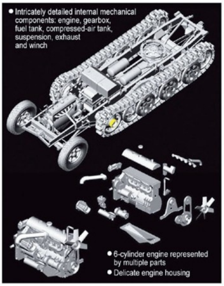
- Realistically cargo deck supported by bames and V-shaped mounts

- Sharply reproduced on-vehicle tools

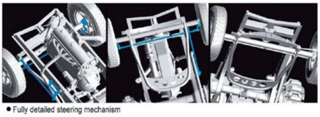
- Newly tooled side panel w/bolt detail



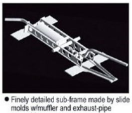
- Realistic engine hood formed from multiple parts w/louver detail
- Radiator cover w/accurate detail



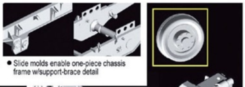
- Intricately detailed internal mechanical components: engine, gearbox, fuel tank, compressed-air tank, suspension, exhaust and winch
- 6-cylinder engine represented by multiple parts
- Delicate engine housing



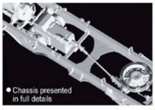
- Fully detailed steering mechanism



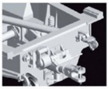
- Finely detailed sub-frame made by slide molds w/muffler and exhaust-pipe assembly



- Slide molds enable one-piece chassis frame w/support-brace detail

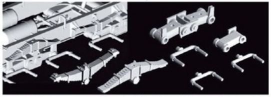


- Chassis presented in full details

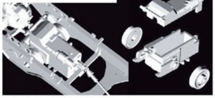


- Rear crossbeam w/roller and trailer coupling depicted like the real one

- Detailed winch spool has bolt and rib detail



- Suspension system as per the real vehicle; slide-molded suspension arms and springs w/delicate detail



- Detailed gearbox has multipart assembly
- Brake drums have detail on both sides

- Final-drive housing made from separate parts w/bolt and rib detail

- Accurately shaped front fenders made from 2-directional slide mold

Magic Track
PATENT REGISTERED
實用新案登錄済み

- Magic Tracks for German half-track
- Track links have reinforcing structure

- Photo-etched steps w/tread pattern next to front fenders

- Includes clear lenses for headlamps

- Different road wheels rendered w/delicate detail on both sides
- Sprocket w/realistic ribbed detail

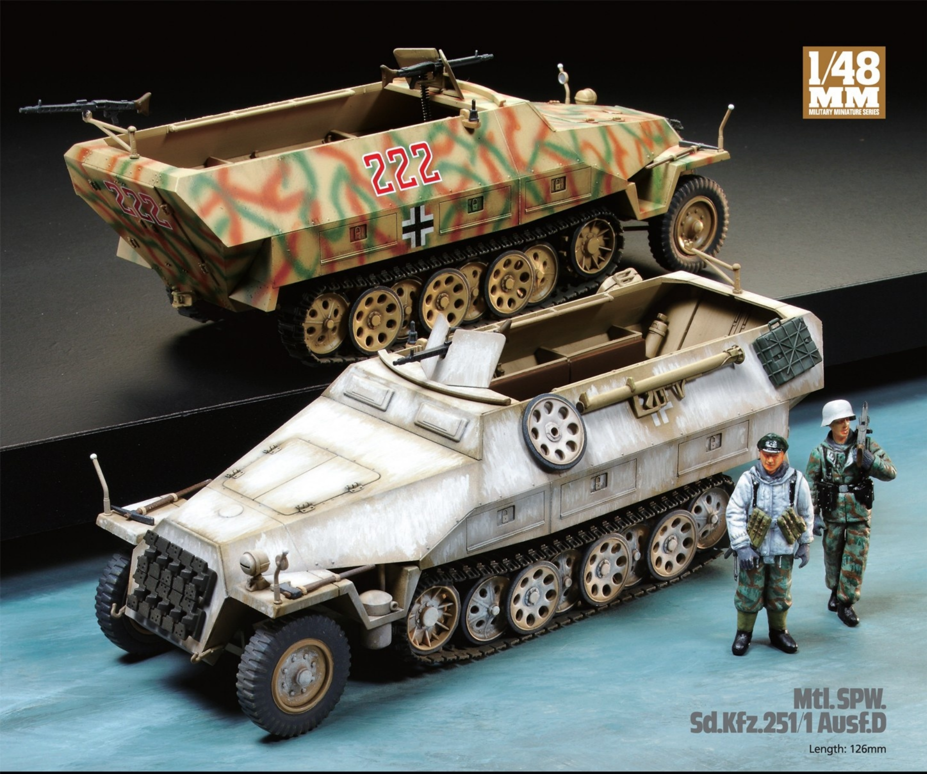
- Front wheels w/authentic tread pattern made from DS

- Photo-etched flange around centre of sprocket wheel

6562 **www.dragon-models.com** **e-mail: info@dragon-models.com**

Dragon Kits are distributed in the UK by; The Hobby Company Limited, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, MK5 8PG

Dragon models are available from all good model shops



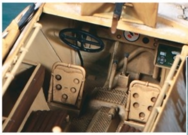
Mtl.SPW.
Sd.Kfz.251/1 Ausf.D

Length: 126mm

The Mech in Mech Infantry

1/48 Scale German Mtl.SPW. Sd.Kfz. 251/1 Ausf.D Item 32564

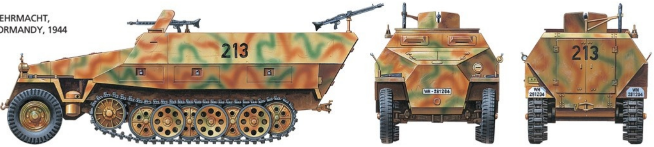
During WWII, the Sd.Kfz.251/1 armored personnel carrier produced by Hanomag served valiantly with armored units in a supporting role and can be called the forerunner of modern infantry fighting vehicles. The improved Ausf.D variant which entered service in 1943 is the subject of Tamiya's 1/48 MM Series model kit. Its distinctive mechanical form, which was redesigned for greater ease of production, is accurately reproduced in this palm-sized scale. The highly visible interior and suspension areas offer a superb level of detail without an overly excessive number of parts. This kit includes assembly-type tracks which are realistic and easy to build as well as three types of markings to depict various vehicles, including those in 3-tone and winter camouflage. The actual vehicle served on all fronts, so modellers can combine this kit with other German tank models and figure sets to create a wide variety of dioramas.



The open passenger compartment features detailed driver's position, seats, floor, and decals to depict the instrument panel and radio.

Two figures depicting an officer and a machine-gunner in winter uniform are included, as are a variety of accessories.

WEHRMACHT,
NORMANDY, 1944



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